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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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A young mother and a student are the latest people to set themselves on fire.

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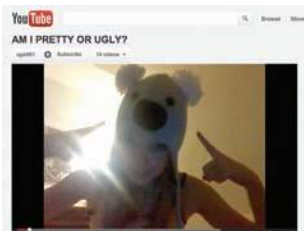
### WORLD



An arms depot explodes in the Congolese capital, killing at least 206.

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## Sketch of Garapan rapist out



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety released yesterday an artist's composite sketch of the man who allegedly raped a woman at knifepoint inside her bedroom in Garapan on Jan. 29.

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The artist's composite sketch of the man who allegedly raped a woman at knifepoint inside her bedroom in Garapan on Jan. 29.

## Hollywood Video robbed, cashier hurt



Castro

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A female cashier was injured during a robbery at Hollywood Video Rental in San Jose last Feb. 24, but she still managed to jot down the license plate of the suspect's getaway vehicle, enabling the police

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## MCS wins middle school academic challenge bowl



By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School emerged as this year's champion in the 10th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl for middle schools, besting seven other teams from private and public schools during intense competition held recently at Saipan Southern High School.

MCS garnered the most points among various categories such as math, science, English, music, sports, computers, and

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Members of the Mount Carmel School team and their coach pose for a group photo after receiving their award in a ceremony held at Saipan Southern High School. The group emerged champion in the 10th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl Competition for middle school held February 25. Team members included Arron Cushing, Cathryn Javier, Eric Lee, Jonathon Pangelinan, and Veeny Revilla. They were coached by teacher Frances Taimanao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## 'Star Marianas plans to fly to Rota; Freedom Air to resume daily flights'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Freedom Air will resume daily flights to Rota and will go back to using a 30-seater aircraft next week, while Star Marianas Air Inc. plans to fly to Rota as

early as end-March, airline officials and senators separately said yesterday.

Dennis Cruz, Freedom Air-CNMI station manager, confirmed yesterday that Freedom Air will resume

» **Cape Air could drop some flights on March 26**

daily flights to Rota as early as next week and will resume the use of 30-seater aircraft that will accommodate more passengers to and from Rota.

"Yes I can confirm we will be back

to normal daily flights, and we will start using again the 30-seater aircraft," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since November, Freedom Air has been using a seven-seater aircraft to give way to "regular maintenance" of the

See **MARIANAS** on **Page 4**



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# Local

## 'Deliberate on Senate-substitute bills and move on'

### » CHC loan bill drags on for almost 3 months

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos urged House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) yesterday to have the House "deliberate" on the \$11.58 million Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. line of credit bill and the \$5 million Medicaid state share measure so that all concerned parties will be able to move on.

"If they can pass it, okay. Deliberate, meaning discuss, approve it, or reject it, put it in conference, or start all over again," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in a brief interview.

Inos met with lawmakers and CHC medical staff on Thursday to discuss House Bill 17-278, Senate Substitute 1, and HB 17-261, SS1. The meeting wrapped up without senators and House members agreeing on what to do with the bills.

But Cabrera has yet to call a House session, almost two weeks since the Senate passed the substitute bills on Feb. 23.

It's also been almost three months since Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed the original CHC line of credit bill, even as CHC has been asking for immediate passage of the bill so that the corporation will be able to timely pay its employees and vendors and buy hospital supplies while the hospital works to improve its billing and collection system.

Basa said yesterday there will be a meeting today on the CHC bills and those expected to be there are Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, House Committee on Health chair Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), and Cabrera, among others.

"We need to hear from the man running the show," Basa said, referring to Babauta.

Babauta was present at the Senate session when they passed the substitute bills.

"But we also need to hear directly from the CEO what he thinks about the Senate bills before the House takes up these bills," Basa said.

Both Fitial and Babauta just came back from a trip to the U.S.

"Make no mistake. I support bills that would give much needed support to CHC. If the House is willing to accept the Senate bills, then be it. I am only one of the 19 members of the House," Basa said, adding that a session may be called this week.

Basa said besides constitutionality questions, the Senate-substituted loan bill also allows the Senate to interfere in the affairs of CHC, particularly on where they should use the money they are going to draw down from the Marianas Public Land Trust and repay.

"The corporation is also in charge of the two islands — Rota

and Tinian. But having the Senate telling the corporation where the money goes, like to Rota and Tinian, is micromanaging. Let CHC decide where the money goes. It's their line of credit anyway," Basa added.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), for his part, said yesterday the Senate is ready to go into conference committee if the House rejects the substitute bills.

Manglona said the Senate would rather work with the House on the substitute bills, than to entertain once again Basa's newly pre-filed bill which is the original version of the line of credit bill that the Senate substituted.

The Senate will have a 4pm session on Wednesday.

#### 'Free meals'

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, separately said the restoration of free meals to Rota and Tinian guest house patients also hinges on the passage of the \$11.58 million line of credit bill for CHC.

Since Feb. 1, CHC stopped providing free meals to medical referral patients from Rota and Tinian, citing financial constraints.

Ayuyu said Rota, as well as Tinian, lawmakers have been donating food and water to patients to make up for the lost free meals.

Babauta, in a Feb. 16 letter to Ayuyu, said CHC's decision to stop supplying free meals was

not implemented without care and thoughtful consideration for alternatives.

Resuming the food service to Rota and Tinian patients would cost \$7.50 for each lunch and \$7.50 for each dinner, Babauta said.

"The cost of the meals will have to be paid in full one month in advance for expected patients receiving services," he told Ayuyu.

Babauta said while he appreciates lawmakers' concerns and efforts to provide meals to Rota and Tinian patients, CHC must first pay its vendors for past due amounts, as well as pay them upfront to start supplying the hospital again.

Babauta recommended a funding plan that would call for special appropriations or some kind of payment plan so that CHC would be able to resume the meal service to Rota and Tinian patients.

But Ayuyu said the law that created the corporation gives CHC the obligation to take care of the patients from Rota and Tinian too.

"We were given assurance by the CEO that once the loan bill is passed, they will resume the meal service to Rota and Tinian patients. We are just waiting for the House to act on the bills," he said.

#### 3-month-old bill

Almost three months had passed since Basa pre-filed his original \$10 million line of credit bill.

See **DELIBERATE** on Page 4

## WESPAC convenes on Saipan for 153rd meeting

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

Members of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council convened Monday for the start of the council's 153rd meeting on fishery updates and issues that affect the region's fishery resources.

Yesterday's meeting, held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, was attended by several government officials led by acting governor Eloy S. Inos, who thanked the council for conducting the meeting in the CNMI as part of its decision to meet regularly in various island jurisdictions.

The program began with Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao welcoming council members and guests with a Refaluwasch chant.

In his remarks, Inos said the council has been "the voice" of indigenous and remote island communities in regards to federal ocean resource issues such as the Magnuson-Stevens Act, coastal and marine spatial planning.

"Some discussions are made

thousands of miles away without participation from our island areas," said Inos. "The council has been a forum and an organization to advocate for our local community perspectives."

Inos cited the importance of establishing annual catch limits that accurately reflect "the truth about our resources," taking into consideration the proper management of resources without imposing unnecessary restrictions on subsistence or small-scale commercial fishermen.

"We look to the council to help us ensure that the federal government does the necessary monitoring, scientific research, and analysis to determine the right harvest levels," he added.

Council chair Manuel Dueñas of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association supervised the meeting with CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios and council executive director Kitty Simonds, who was the first to deliver her report.

Just before lunch break, the council handed out awards to

the students who won in the 2012 Art Contest.

Council communications officer Sylvia Spalding said they have been conducting the competition every year since 2007. Winning entries are featured in both the Chamorro and Refaluwasch lunar calendars published by the council and NOAA.

This year's theme was "Climate Change Impacts on the Islands," which was centered on how indigenous knowledge and practices can help island communities adapt to and survive the effects of this phenomenon.

The theme was also in preparation for the First Stewards Symposium on Climate Change in Washington, D.C. this July.

Winners for the Grades K-2 division, who were all from Grace Christian Academy, were Karina Dilse, 1st prize; Clerisse Dacumos, 2nd prize; and Richard Steele, 3rd prize.

For Grades 3-5, winners were Jaden Yamagata-Santos and Mary Jane Domingo, 1st and 2nd placers, respectively and both from Oleai Elementary School; and Britney Joy Y. Atalig, 3rd

placer from Sinapalo Elementary School.

Grades 6-8 winners were Maria Reyes, 1st place, Hopwood Jr. High School; Kloe Borja, 2nd place, Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School; and Craig Aguon, 3rd place also from HJHS.

Grades 9-12 winners were all from Marianas High School: Hannah Alcorido, 1st place; Mon Morera, 2nd place; and Haeri Kim, 3rd place.

MHS teacher Wesley Foster, who accompanied the winning high school students, praised the council for giving the students an opportunity to join a contest where they learn about pressing issues like climate change. "It's vital that they understand what the Fishery Council is trying to promote—especially among the young ones now because they're the future generation and what's happening around the world will affect us," he said.

The 153rd Council meeting will continue on Saipan today before members fly to Guam tomorrow and resume the meeting at the Guam Hilton on March 8 and 9.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority  
*Tourism is everybody's business.*

**Korean MICE groups Travel to NMI**



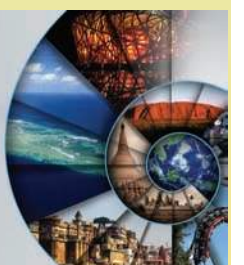
The **Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE)** segment of tourism to the Northern Marianas continues to show significance, as three groups from Korea availed of MICE incentives provided by the Marianas Visitors Authority in January 2012.

A total of 379 MICE travelers were attracted with the help of MICE incentives offered to travel agents. Agent **Redcap** brought in 90 visitors of the baseball team **LG Twins** for 3 nights at the **Pacific Islands Club Saipan**. Agent **E&F** brought in a total of 166 visitors of the **Korean Bar Association** in two groups during the money, staying at the **Hyatt Regency** during their visit. E&F also brought in 123 visitors of a group called **Mercky** during the period.

The MVA provided support budget to travel agents based on group size and also provided each MICE visitors with a Marianas Guidebook and map. The goal of the MICE program is to attract group travel to the Northern Marianas.



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# DPL twits MVA for 'unauthorized use' of beach for pika festival

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has notified the Marianas Visitors Authority about its unauthorized use of Tachogna Beach for the 8th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival last Feb. 18 and 19.

Compliance Division director Raymond A. Cruz wrote to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio on March 1, saying that DPL does not have any record authorizing MVA to use Tachogna Beach, a public land on Lot No. 067701 in San Jose.

Cruz said this was discovered after conducting an audit on the temporary authorizations issued

by the agency.

"Be advised that it's mandatory to obtain a written authorization from the DPL prior to entering and using public land for any lawful purpose," Cruz in a letter.

Cruz advised Tenorio that a request must be made to DPL's Real Estate Division for "any future use of public lands for any lawful purpose."

"The DPL's Compliance Division staff will be monitoring this matter to ensure your future compliance with this notice," added Cruz.

When asked for comment, MVA's Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* that DPL's concern is something "new" to them since this

is the first time they have been informed that a permit is needed when holding the Annual Pika Festival, which they have been organizing with the Tinian municipality the past eight years.

Tenorio assured, though, that

MVA will obtain the public land use permit for subsequent festivals. Tinian Mayor's Office's Don Farrell concurred, adding that Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz is also communicating with DPL Tinian "to ensure

compliance."

Meanwhile, vendor sales for this year's festival amounted to \$13,086, which Tenorio said is 22 percent higher than last

year's sales.

"The increased participation by residents from neighboring islands was the reason cited for the increase in sales," said Tenorio.

## Fitial back from 3-week trip but will be off to Guam soon

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is back from an almost three-week trip to Washington, D.C. and California to attend several meetings, but is expected to leave again for Guam to attend the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit next week.

Fitial left on Feb. 14 and came back March 5. The MCE summit in Guam will be from March 12 to 14.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a brief interview, said Fitial came back yesterday morning. He said he has yet to meet with the governor on issues such as the planned exemption of federally funded programs from the 16-hour work cut biweekly.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Basa) separately confirmed the governor is back and looks forward to today's meeting on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s controversial loan bill.

Fitial's first destination when he left Saipan on Valentine's Day was Los Angeles, Califor-

nia, where he joined U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping, Calif. Gov. Edmund G. Brown and others in a Feb. 17 roundtable discussion on bilateral economic, cultural, and educational ties between the United States and China.

He then proceeded to Washington, D.C. for several meetings. The first one was the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force's 27th meeting on Feb. 23. He then attended the National Governors Association Winter Meeting from Feb. 25 to Feb. 27. He was also at the Western Governors Association meeting. Attorney General Ed Buckingham joined the governor at the NGA meeting.

The governor also attended the 2012 Interagency Group on Insular Areas meeting on Feb. 28 and 29. After the NGA meeting, Fitial was set to attend the Federal Regional Council in San Francisco, California. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

## Potential sewer odor in Sadog Tasi area

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is alerting neighbors of the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant of potential odors today, March 6, 2012.

Operators at the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment plant will be conducting operations on Tuesday that may cause an offensive sewer related odor that day. In an effort to minimize the inconvenience to the neighborhood, CUC will be conducting these operations

only during business hours, beginning at approximately 9am through 4:30pm. Every effort will be made to keep the duration as short as possible.

"CUC's wastewater treatment staff takes odor complaints and disturbances very seriously and do not wish to negatively impact any of our neighbors on any day. However, for successful operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant these activities are unavoidable." *(CUC)*

## Judge grants delay in Reksid sentencing

The federal court granted yesterday the request of the U.S. Probation Office to delay the sentencing of Franz B. Reksid, a former Department of Public Lands special assistant who was found guilty of accepting a \$3,000 bribe from a private company that obtained a federally funded contract from DPL.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Reksid's sentencing hearing will be moved from March 13, 2012 to April 24, 2012.

Manglona gave the U.S. Probation Office until today, March 6, to file a presentence investigation report.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg on Thursday made the request to reset the sentencing hearing to allow her to complete the presentence investigation report.

In September 2011, a federal jury found the 71-year-old Reksid guilty of one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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## DELIBERATE

From Page 2

CHC management and medical staff have been looking forward to the bill's passage to infuse fresh funds into the hospital to timely pay employees and vendors for supplies, while the corporation improves its

billing and collection.

Basa pre-filed the bill on Dec. 23 and formally introduced it during a session in January. Basa's original bill was to provide a \$10 million line of credit to CHC from the Marianas Public Land Trust.

However, on the day it was to be acted on by the House on Feb. 13, Basa withdrew the original bill and replaced

it with a new one that incorporates a separate bill that also tries to source \$1.58 million from MPLT for CHC's electronic health information initiative, thus the total \$11.58 million.

The House passed Basa's House Bill 17-278, House Draft 2 on Feb. 13, and at the time, CHC's Babauta said its passage would avert further crisis at the hospital and would help prevent hospi-

tal staff from walking out of their jobs over delayed wages and other financial problems at the corporation.

That House session was held on the eve of three House members' visit to Taiwan at the invitation of the Taiwanese government.

At the time, three senators were already in Manila and were to join the three House members in Taiwan for an official trip from Feb. 14 to 19.

The Senate didn't hold a session until Feb. 23. Prior to the session, there was no mention of a Senate substitute bill.

Senators, CHC's Babauta, MPLT officials and acting governor Eloy S. Inos held a lengthy discussion on the substitute bill, and the Senate ended up passing HB 17-278, Senate Substitute 1 early that night. The substitute bill ended up giving CHC \$5 million, plus \$1.5 million which CHC was supposed to pay CUC for its outstanding utility debts and another \$3.5 million was for PSS's debt to CUC.

The Senate also passed a substitute

version of HB 17-261.

The Senate amendment to HB 17-261, which was known only to senators until that day, amends the fiscal year 2012 budget law to make the \$5 million "seed" money appropriated to CHC as the state share of the required matching funds for Medicaid reimbursements to the corporation and would therefore yield a reimbursement of \$5 million that is expected to also help CHC.

Senators, along with some House members, met with CHC medical staff and Inos on March 1. That meeting gave CHC medical staff and lawmakers an opportunity to share their concerns about the Senate-substituted bills.

Amid the bickering and information-sharing, the House and Senate members failed to agree on the fate of the bills which the acting governor was ready to sign should they come to his desk.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said the Senate is waiting for the House's action on the bills.



CLARISSA DAVID

## WESTPAC MEETING

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios preside over the start of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's 153rd meeting at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan yesterday.

## MCS

From Page 1

social studies enabling the team to win the first place trophy.

The MCS team was composed of Arron Cushing, Cathryn Javier, Eric Lee, Jonathon Pangelinan, and Veeney Revilla. They were coached by their teacher Frances Taimanao.

The second place winner was the team of Hopwood Junior High School while Marianas Baptist Academy came in third. Each team was awarded trophies and gift items last Feb. 25. Last year's champion was the team from Calvary Christian Academy.

Members of the Hopwood Junior High team included Masrud Alam, Mikhail Alcantara, Joshua Mendiola, Eliezha Mendoza, and Edna Misola. For MBA team, members were Emily

An, Jose Antonio Castro, Delaney Kyle Chua, Yuuki Nishida, and Myoung Ki (Tony) Oh.

Saipan Southern High School chapter of the National Honor Society hosted the competition for the junior high school division. Each of the eight competing schools fielded five-member teams.

According to SSSH National Honor Society chapter president Carmen Borja, the competition has two rounds and a tie-breaker is conducted in case the schools are tied at the end of Round 2. For both rounds, subjects include easy, medium, and hard difficulties.

She said the main purpose of the annual event is to test students' academic ability and their knowledge of the different subjects.

Because the academic challenge cuts across all subjects, each competitor needs to be knowledgeable in different

areas.

Borja said eight schools participated in this year's competition including Tinian Junior High School, Chacha Ocean View Junior High School, Saipan International School, Calvary Christian Academy, Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Hopwood Junior High School. Each school received certificates of recognition from the organizing panel.

"We started organizing this event during November and prepared for three months. Members have put in a significant amount of time to organize this event. This year, in our efforts to apply technological devices and save paper, we used clickers. Clickers are usually used in our Algebra 2 class. Students here are fond of the device and suggested it for the competition," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

## HOLLYWOOD

From Page 1

to catch him.

The victim, a 23-year-old Filipino, sustained moderate injuries in her right jaw. The suspect reportedly took \$379 cash from the establishment's cash register.

The suspect, Benjamin Jones Castro, surrendered to the Department of Public Safety's main station in Susupe yesterday morning and was taken into custody. He was charged with robbery, assault and battery, and theft. His bail was set at \$12,000 cash.

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho appointed the Office of Public Defender to represent the 24-year-old Castro and set the preliminary hearing for March 15 at 9am.

Police detective Patrick Sablan stated in his report that police officers responded to Hollywood Video Rental on Feb. 24 at 10:08pm after receiving a call about a robbery.

According to the preliminary inves-

tigation, the suspect had pretended to be a customer, asking for some Blu-ray DVDs. The cashier brought him to the Blu-ray DVD rack and was returning to the counter when the suspect made his way toward her and locked her in a rear chokehold using his left forearm.

The suspect instructed her to open the cash register. She attempted to free herself, but the suspect punched her once on the right side of her jaw.

Afraid that the robber might hit her again, the cashier opened the cash register. As the suspect was getting money from the register, the cashier managed to escape and ran outside, screaming for help.

The suspect also ran outside and got into a vehicle that was parked on the southern portion of the parking lot. The car sped off on Monsignor Guerrero Road, heading toward Beach Road. The cashier, however, was able to jot down the vehicle's license plate, ABW 689.

Police later learned that the car is a 1997 Nissan Altima registered to one Barbara Valdez.

Detective Sablan said that, on Thursday, March 1, he and another detective proceeded to Valdez's residence in Chalan Kiya where they found the suspect's getaway vehicle.

Photos of the car were later shown to the cashier, who positively identified the getaway vehicle. The victim also identified Castro in a photo lineup.

Sablan said they learned that Castro, who is employed at Herman's Modern Bakery, is the boyfriend of Valdez's daughter.

Sablan said that Castro used the car that night of Feb. 24.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the police searched for Castro over the weekend after Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo issued an arrest warrant on Saturday.

Failing to locate Castro, police checked with family and friends and left messages for Castro to contact the police.

Tarkong said that Castro surrendered to DPS yesterday and was arrested at 9:46am.

## MARIANAS

From Page 1

30-seater aircraft. Since then, it has also stopped flying to Rota on Mondays and Fridays.

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said they welcome Freedom Air's decision to resume normal operations.

Ayuyu and Manglona also said the owner of Rota Resort, Hee Cho, has been working with Star Marianas Air Inc. so that the airline will be able to provide flights to and from Rota as early as the last week of March.

Ayuyu said Star Marianas Air is looking at using two nine-seater aircraft for the Rota flights.

An official from Star Marianas on Tinian said yesterday they need to get clearance from the management before speaking directly to the media.

Manglona and Ayuyu said they estimate that arrivals on Rota dropped by 80 percent because of lack of flights and the use of smaller aircraft since last year.

"We're down to seven-seater aircraft and they only fly on certain days... You know there's something terribly wrong

when it takes seven hours to get to Rota from Saipan," Manglona said.

He cited as an example his own experience on Friday. He said to be able to fly back to Rota, he had to check in for a flight to Guam at 8pm. In Guam, they had to wait some four hours to take the 2:10am flight to Rota.

"By the time we reached home, from the airport to the house, it's already 3:30am," he said. "It's just ridiculous. We've been seeking assistance from Cape Air, Freedom Air, and Star Marianas. Not only is the air fare expensive, you cannot even get a seat."

Manglona added that when Freedom Air stopped its daily flights and used the seven-seater aircraft, it almost shut down Rota's tourism industry. Domestic travel and medical referrals have also been negatively impacted.

With the resumption of Freedom Air's daily flights and its use of a bigger aircraft, coupled with Star Marianas Air's new flights to Rota, the senators hope that Rota's tourism will grow once again.

However, Manglona said, Cape Air will stop its Saipan-Rota-Guam flights on March 25.

"They will go directly to Guam. So if you want to go to Guam, you have to wait for four hours or so," he said.

## SKETCH

From Page 1

Police officer Jason Tarkong said that DPS investigators were able to find an artist who developed the suspect's composite drawing.

"The composite drawing was completed with inputs of the victim and witnesses," said Tarkong in a statement.

He said DPS hopes that the drawing would help members of the community identify and report any and all sightings, including the suspect's identity.

Tarkong cautioned the public not to approach the suspect and instead report any sighting to the police immediately.

"Please call DPS at 664-9001 or 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or visit our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net," said Tarkong, who is also the coordinator for Crime Stoppers.

Last Feb. 24, DPS Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas disclosed that wit-

nesses and the victim have failed so far to identify the suspect from several photos shown them by investigators.

Mafnas said that DPS continues in its effort to identify the suspect.

"Several lineups were shown to the victim and witnesses with negative results," he said.

Mafnas, however, disclosed that investigators have identified one additional witness.

The suspect reportedly beat up and raped the victim, described as a 25-year-old Asian, inside her bedroom in western Garapan on the morning of Jan. 29.

The suspect also tried to kidnap the victim by attempting to take her with him to his car at knifepoint but she managed to escape by yelling for help.

The suspect was described as in his late teens to early 20s, brown complexioned, very short hair, about 5'5" to 5'8" tall, and weighing 150 to 170 lbs.

The victim sustained unspecified injuries.

Police said the suspect fled the scene in an older model yellowish gold Hyundai Accent four-door sedan.



# GOP to choose delegates who will help pick presidential bet

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Voting for local Republicans' delegates to the August Republican National Convention in Florida will be held this Saturday from 7am to 7pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Saipan. Voting places on Rota and Tinian will be announced soon.

Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, the person-in-charge of the Republican Party of the NMI Association's 2012 delegate elections, said "the RPNMIA caucus

will be open to all registered Republicans in the CNMI."

"Everyone will have an opportunity to vote for their choice of [delegate] candidate," he said.

Voting on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be from 7am to 7pm "and results to be announced upon counting," he added.

Ogumoro-Uludong said that Republicans will vote for six delegates. However, there will also be six alternates to ensure a complete slate of delegates representing the RPNMIA in Tampa, Florida.

They will be joined at the national convention by the three party officers: Gov. Benigno R. Fitial as party chairman, national committeeman Bo Palacios, and national committeewoman Viola Alepuyo.

Juan Reyes, one of those running for delegates, said he hopes all registered Republicans in the CNMI will vote on March 10. He said the last estimate was 3,000, but he said registration is still ongoing.

"We would like everyone to register as Republicans and vote," said the former Republi-

can Party chair.

Reyes was instrumental in having the NMI Republican Party receive official recognition from the national organization in 2004.

Jesus Muna, a former precinct chair, said he initially considered running for delegate but said he can't afford to travel to Florida if he wins, considering that the party may not have the funds to pay for all the delegates and officers' expenses.

Those who will be elected as delegates, along with the three officers, will be sent to the Re-

publican National Convention in Florida from Aug. 27 to 30 to help pick the GOP's presidential candidate to challenge President Barack Obama in the Nov. 6 polls.

Ogumoro-Uludong said the nine delegates are "unbound." This means they are not obligated to vote for a particular candidate at the Republican National Convention.

"The March 10, 2012 RPNMIA Caucus is a non-binding caucus," he added. "The delegates, upon selection by CNMI registered Republicans,

will have an opportunity to make their choice at the national convention."

There's no telling whether the Republican delegates from the CNMI will endorse former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, former House speaker Newt Gingrich, Rep. Ron Paul, or former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum.

In 2008, Republican delegates from the CNMI endorsed Sen. John McCain.

Other U.S. insular areas, such as American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto, will also have at least nine delegates each to the national convention.

## PSS freezes 55 positions due to budget uncertainties

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

About 55 positions in the CNMI Public Schools System will remain vacant this fiscal year until funding is found that will allow them to hire more people, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

She said she ordered the hiring freeze as PSS is short of funds to be able to hire all needed personnel.

Sablan said the 55 frozen positions are a combination of certified and non-certified personnel. Certified employees include classroom teachers and school administrators.

"We have frozen 50-some positions in addition to the energy conservation that we're

doing now and this will take effect [until] the rest of the fiscal year. PSS currently has 55 vacancies which we have not filled and we're not going fill," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after last week's board meeting.

According to Sablan, PSS is looking at ways on how to survive this fiscal year and the next. Among these worst-case scenarios being bandied about are the possible adoption of an across-the-board pay cut for employees.

PSS has about 900 employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota that are paid using local funds. Of that number, more than 500 are classroom teachers.

The PSS payroll amounts to about \$1.1 million every two

weeks.

PSS was allocated \$30 million for fiscal year 2012. Some \$28 million will pay for the salaries of personnel while \$2 million will go to operation and all other expenses of schools.

Sablan said that PSS has requested Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to help PSS pay for its utilities by tapping federal monies from the Office of the Insular Affairs.

At the start of the school year, the system increased class sizes to maximize teachers and resources. The PSS central offices also relocated to its own property to save about \$250,000 in annual rent and utilities.

Despite these challenges, Sablan said that no school program will be affected or sus-

pended. "We cannot suspend our programs because we are mandated to provide educational programs to our kids. We cannot suspend the special education, the Head Start program, or the K-12 program," she said.

Board fiscal and personnel affairs committee chair Tanya King told *Saipan Tribune* that the \$40 million proposed budget for next fiscal year is the amount needed so that PSS will be able to retain its personnel in fiscal year 2013. Some \$4 million of the proposed budget is just for utilities. She hinted that failure to receive the proposed amount may result in shutting down some schools, an option that she said the board is not willing to consider.

## Garbage collector allegedly fondles boy, 7

A garbage collector was arrested Friday afternoon after he allegedly fondled a 7-year-old boy at a public school.

Jonathan Sang-an Alberto, 40, was arrested for sexual assault in the second degree and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at \$10,250 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on March 15 at 9am.

Police detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that the boy and a girl, both of them 7 years old, had gone out of their classroom on Friday at 1:52pm to throw out the trash. The two walked out to the trash bin where Alberto and a co-employee of Artman Corp. were

unloading the trash into their garbage truck.

Alberto allegedly grabbed the boy's crotch and held it.

The two students got scared and ran back to their classroom where they told their teacher about what had just happened. The teacher immediately reported the incident to the school's vice principal.

Responding police officers later found the garbage truck in Garapan and pulled it over. The officer called the boy and his father to the area to identify the suspect. The boy positively identified Alberto, who was arrested at 3:52pm. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Alberto

### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536  
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'12 Second General Membership on Tuesday, March 06, 2012 at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.  
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY '12 First Meeting Minutes (12/01/11)
- V. Reports
  - a. OVR Director
  - b. Sub-Committees
  - c. SRC Chairperson
- VI. Old Business
  - a) Meeting with TSA on airline accommodations
  - b) Schedule of 2013 State Plan Forums in Rota, Tinian & Saipan
  - c) OVR Training Orientation – March 28-29, 2012
- VII. New Business
  - a. NMPASI Presentation
  - b. 2012 SRC Resource Plan
  - c. Agency Updates
- VIII. Consumer Forum
  - a) Mass Transit Update
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- I. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman  
CHAIRMAN

### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council

"Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 96950: TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536  
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 08, 2012 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Regency from 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and adoption of December 06, 2011 Minutes
- IV. Reports
  - CIL Director
  - OVR Director
  - Chairman
- V. Old Business
  - SPIL Public Forums on Saipan, Rota & Tinian
  - SILC By-Laws/Membership Composition
  - Accessible Transportation Issues
- VI. New Business
  - SILC Resource Plan
  - Recommendation for CIL activities
- VII. Consumer Forum
- VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro  
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).



# Over 24K school coupons received on first week of fundraiser

## » SVES leading race with 22-percent share

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

San Vicente Elementary School could be \$8,000 richer by March 17 if it continues to top the fundraising campaign of McDonald's Saipan and the Public School System.

The school received the highest number of fundraising coupons on the first week of the promo period from Feb. 25 through March 4.

Ana Olaes, McDonald's Saipan human resource and marketing manager, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the company has already received a total of 24,192 coupons from participating schools during the first week of the fundraiser alone.

McDonald's Saipan will be giving away a total of \$11,000 in cash to winning schools: first prize is \$8,000, second prize is \$2,000, and third prize is \$1,000.

Olaes said that San Vicente topped the first week with a 22.4-percent share of the total coupons turned in.

Coming in second as of yesterday was San Antonio Ele-

mentary School, followed by Garapan Elementary School. Also in the Top 5 are William S. Reyes Elementary School and Oleai Elementary School. The next counting will be on Friday.

Olaes said that the promotion's first week ran smoothly, a sign of the huge success of the campaign that aims to help elementary public schools with their most immediate needs.

Ten elementary public schools on Saipan are taking part in the campaign. Only one has yet to post any coupon from its supporters.

Each elementary school will earn points through purchases made by their students, the students' parents, and their friends at McDonald's Saipan. For every dollar spent using a school's coupon, one point will be credited to that school.

Olaes is optimistic that more coupons will come in in the next few days until the end of the fundraising period on March 17, 2pm. The big winners will be announced on March 21.

Olaes said the company has

been getting positive feedback and overwhelming support through letters from community members, thanking McDonald's for supporting the schoolchildren's needs.

This tie-up between McDonald's Saipan and PSS comes as the company celebrates its 19th anniversary this year. A similar fundraiser was held for private schools in 2009.



### WATCH OUT

Joshua Santos of P&A Corp. uses a boom truck to pick up dried tree branches and other debris from an area along Beach Road in Garapan last week. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been working with P&A Corp. on the cleanup of debris, after CUC trims tree branches interfering with power lines for safety reasons.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Brisk sale of kites for Saturday's kite festival

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Brilliant Star School expects to boost its kite sales on the day of the Marianas Winds Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair itself. The event is slated on Saturday, March 10, from 10am to 3pm, at the American Memorial Park baseball field.

"Kite sales are steady, but we are expecting sales to really pick up during the festival," said school principal Richard Sikkel.

He expects to sell all the 100 kites they ordered for the family-oriented festival focusing on kites and cuisines from around the world. The kites sell for \$8 to \$20.

"We selected the kites this year for their easy flying and I can speak from personal experience—I went out and tested them this week with my kids—that they are really easy to fly," he added.

Based on last year's "good turnout," Sikkel said he is looking forward to seeing more kites in the air and part of exciting competitions. "It will be a sight to behold."

According to Sikkel, their annual kite competitions such as the highest flying kite, the smallest and largest kites are "always exciting."

"The bar was set pretty high

last year with one of the highest flying kites ending up on top of the Hyatt roof, the largest kite being a 20-foot-long octopus and the smallest kite measuring a mere square inch," said Sikkel. "Eternal bragging rights and a trophy await the winners in each category."

Should kite fliers get hungry or thirsty, Sikkel said Café at the Park, Shirley's Coffee Shop, and Shenanigans will be selling food at the event.

"We have opted for one-stop meals that allow the fliers to eat on the fly," he said.

Proceeds from the event will go to Brilliant Star School's Tuition Assistance Program, which allows the school "to provide deserving students an opportunity for high quality education which might otherwise be unobtainable for them and to provide the school a well-qualified student body: a diverse and inclusive community reflecting a broad social and economic mix."

Sikkel said non-fliers can join the different games they have set up and the raffle draw that would give away exciting prizes courtesy of IT&E, Big Dipper, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Grand Hotel, DFS, and Shenanigans, among others.

For more information, email [principal@brilliantstar.org](mailto:principal@brilliantstar.org) or call 323-STAR (7827).

## More info available for live fire training complex SEIS

**ASAN, Guam**—The Navy released additional information Saturday, March 3, regarding the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed live fire training range complex on Guam.

The project website—[http://bit.ly/Guam\\_LFTRC\\_SEIS](http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS)—has been updated to include:

■ A document called the "Technical Report." The report details the analysis conducted by the Navy following the commitment it made to 24/7 access to Pagat Village, Cave and trail. This analysis, which was done in the spring and summer of 2011 and based on information known at the time, contributed to the decision to prepare the SEIS.

■ Notional maps of the five current potentially reasonable alternatives. The alternatives are located in the Route 15 area and on/adjacent to the Naval Magazine.

■ Maps showing privately owned parcels of land that are within the notional training range complex alternatives. The Navy is seeking the community's help in identifying landown-

ers so they may be made aware of the proposal, and so they may be contacted for permission to conduct environmental studies on their property. Maps highlight where land ownership information is needed. The Navy has already initiated the process of contacting and meeting with known landowners.

The public is encouraged to review these documents, as they will provide additional information about the proposed action, considerations for locating training ranges, and where and how the training ranges could operate for each of the current alternatives. In order to prepare a thorough and complete analysis of potential training range locations, comments on these documents are encouraged throughout the public scoping period. The scoping period is currently open and will close on April 6, 2012.

The Navy is coordinating to make copies of these documents available, and will be providing an update in the near future with the locations at which these documents will be available. (NAVFAC)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID  
IFB12-OHS-044 (A)(B)**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 27, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS AND ONE (1) COLOR COPIER MACHINE FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY"**

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO [ohs.delacruz@gmail.com](mailto:ohs.delacruz@gmail.com) NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 14, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Procurement And Supply  
CNMI Government**

**INVITATION TO BID**

ITB NO.: ITB12-WIA-054

Submission/Opening Date: March 29, 2012 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY – ROTA BRANCH"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government

/s/ EDITH DELEON GUERRERO  
WIA Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP12-OHS-047**

SUBMISSION: MARCH 22, 2012 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

**"PURCHASE, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR ITS COMMAND AND INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS MUST BE SENT VIA E-MAIL TO [ohs.delacruz@gmail.com](mailto:ohs.delacruz@gmail.com) ATTN: CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER, NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 12, 2012. UNTIMELY QUESTIONS MAY NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Amendment Notice**

**Revised Dates, Times and Locations for the  
Public School System, Early Intervention Program  
Public Hearings**

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Public School System Early Intervention Program is required to provide a 60 day circulation period of the Part C Grant Application and Revised Policies and Procedures and provide a 30 day public comment period before the adoption of any new policies or procedures, including any revision to an existing policies or procedures. As required, PSS must hold public hearings and must provide notice of the hearings at least 30 days before the hearings are conducted to enable the general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, Early Intervention providers, and the members of the Interagency Coordinating Council to comment on the policies and procedures.

\*Public Circulation Period: January 25, 2012 thru March 30, 2012  
\*Public Comment Period: February 27, 2012 thru March 28, 2012

Location	Date	Time	Site
Tinian	March 19, 2012	5:00 pm to 6:00pm	Tinian High School Library

Copies of the Grant Applications and Revised Early Intervention Policies and Procedures are available from Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the following locations:

Office of Special Education Programs, Susupe, 2nd floor PSS Central Bldg. Phone Number 237-3029 Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C\*DAC) in Garapan. Phone Number 664-4830, The Grant Applications and Revised Early Intervention Policies and Procedures are also posted on the PSS Website at: Part B Grant Application: <http://www.cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/curriculum-instruction-assessment/special-education-early-intervention-program/grant-applications/> Part C Grant Application and Policies and Procedures: <http://www.cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/curriculum-instruction-assessment/early-intervention-program/annual-grant-applications/>

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, hand delivered to the Office of Special Education Programs located on the 2nd floor PSS Central Building in Susupe, mailed to PSS Box 1370 or phone in your comments to:

Special Education Program:

(670) 237-3029

Children's Dev. Assistance Center

(670) 664-4830

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama-Director, Special Education Program at (670) 237-3029, or Robin Palacios, Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4830.



# Cruise ship with 4,000 aboard to visit Saipan on March 15

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The luxury cruise ship *Queen Mary 2* will dock at the Port of Saipan on March 15 with some 4,000 people aboard, of which 2,400 are passengers and 1,600 are crewmembers, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Richard Pierce said yesterday.

*Queen Mary 2*'s itinerary is available at <http://www.qm2.org.uk/itinerary.html>.

The voyage starts from Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney in

Australia, then to Rabaul in Papua New Guinea on March 12, before reaching Saipan on March 15.

Pierce said *Queen Mary 2* will arrive on Saipan around 5am and leave the same day.

"They will be here for about 14 hours. We would have thousands of passengers all over the place and there won't be enough taxis around, among other things," Pierce said.

That is why the Chamber of Commerce is encouraging its membership and residents to be on the watch for those wishing a ride from Charlie Dock to

downtown Garapan and tourist sites when *Queen Mary 2* arrives at Charlie Dock on March 15, a Thursday.

"*Queen Mary 2* carries over 4,000 aboard, and SCC welcomes all visitors to Saipan to shop, eat and enjoy the island's attractions," Pierce said in a separate statement.

From Saipan, *Queen Mary 2* will be heading to Osaka and Nagasaki in Japan, before going to Shanghai and Hong Kong in China, and then to Phu My in Vietnam, and Laem Chabang in Thailand.

The 1,132-ft.-long *Queen Mary 2* is owned by U.K.-based Cunard, which prides itself as having "the most famous ocean liners in the world."

Cunard describes *Queen*

*Mary 2* on its website as "the most magnificent luxury ocean liner ever built. Her every detail harkens to the Golden Age of Ocean Travel, while providing one of the most modern luxury

cruise travel experiences on earth." Cunard also says *Queen Mary 2* is 113 feet longer than the original *Queen Mary* and 147 feet longer than the Eiffel Tower is tall.

## Mt. Carmel brings home trophy in 2012 mock trial competition

The CNMI Bar Association, with assistance from the Judiciary, hosted the 2012 CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition on Friday, March 2 at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe, Saipan. Six high schools, representing both private and public schools from all three islands, participated in this scholastic competition where students portrayed the role of attorneys and witnesses in a fictitious case.

Teams comprising 6-10 students spent months practicing with the assistance of their attorney and teacher-coaches to present their cases before a panel of volunteer CNMI judges and attorneys. The students were evaluated based on their knowledge of the evidence and ability to present a logical and persuasive case.

Superior Court Judge Perry B. Inos presided over the championship round. This year's finalists were Mt. Carmel High School (2011 runner-up) and Marianas Baptist Academy (2011 champions). Students from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Jr. Sr. High School, and

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School on Rota also competed.

Mt. Carmel took home the championship this year and received a plaque, individual medals, and gift certificates from Joeten Enterprises. Marianas Baptist Academy as runner-up received gift certificates from National Office Supply and gift bags from IT&E. The Public School System will send the Mt. Carmel team to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May to represent the CNMI at the annual National High School Mock Trial Competition.

Following the competition, students gathered for an award ceremony at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Marianas Baptist Academy received the Supreme Court Professionalism Award and several students were individually recognized. Deveny Delacruz (MHS) and Anastasia Schweiger (Mt. Carmel) earned best attorney awards and received gift certificates from Saipan World Resort and Coca Cola. Michael Johnson (MHS), Austin Delos Santos (RHS), and Kyle Sandbergen (THS) won best witness

awards and received gift certificates from Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort and Marianas Resort and Spa. As a result of a raffle, Delos Santos took home a Docomo cell phone.

The students and the CNMI Bar Association thank the following sponsors and volunteers who made the competition and award ceremony possible: the Saipan Grand Hotel, Saipan World Resort, Pacific Trading Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, NMI Judiciary Historical Society, Joeten Enterprises, Coca Cola, National Office Supply, Pacific Islands Club, Docomo, IT&E, Marianas Resort and Spa, Topnotch, Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Sen. Pete P. Reyes, Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Rep. Joseph M. Palacios and Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Suzanne Steffy, Albert Hicking, Valerie Malwebug, Justice John Manglona, Martha Mendiola, Heather Kennedy and the staff of the Supreme and Superior Courts and all volunteer judges, jurors, and coaches. (CNMI Judiciary)

## Five in NMI earn accredited investment fiduciary designation

**BRIDGEVILLE, Pennsylvania**—Five fiduciaries of public funds in the CNMI have been awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary, or AIF, designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies, the standards-setting body for fi360. The AIF designation signifies specialized knowledge of fiduciary responsibility and the ability to implement policies and procedures that meet a defined standard of care.

The fiduciaries from the CNMI who were awarded the AIF designation were Derek Sasamoto, CFO, Commonwealth Ports Authority; Melchor Mendiola, trustee, Marianas Public Land Trust; Peter Q. Cruz, trustee, MPLT; Bobbie Reyes, executive director, MPLT; and Bruce M. MacMillan, CPA, consultant, MPLT.

The designation is the culmination of a rigorous training program, which includes a comprehensive, closed-book final examination under the supervision of a proctor, and agreement to abide by the AIF Code of Ethics. On an ongoing

basis, designees are required to complete continuing education to maintain the AIF designation.

The first ever Asia-based Fi360 training was sponsored by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies and held prior to APAFS's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila in October 2011. The training was attended by 25 individuals from throughout Micronesia and the Philippines.

Fi360 will be holding the next Accredited Investment Fiduciary® training immediately before the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila, the Philippines, being held on Nov. 29 and 30, 2012.

"We are excited about hosting this prestigious, and badly needed, fiduciary training certification course once again. The response to the first course was truly overwhelming," said APAFS chairman Gerard Cruz. "Demand is already high for this year's training, and as we can only accommodate 25 participants, I would encourage interested individuals to email us

immediately at [executivedirector@apafs.org](mailto:executivedirector@apafs.org)."

Fi360, based near Pittsburgh, Pa., is the first full-time training and research facility for fiduciaries, and conducts training programs at universities throughout the United States and abroad. As part of fi360, the Center confers the AIF Designation as well as the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst™ designation. AIFA designees are the only recognized professionals trained to perform fiduciary assessments, which measure how well investment professionals are fulfilling the fiduciary duties required of them by the applicable investment legislation, case law, and regulatory opinion letters.

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is a non-profit educational association with the aim of providing educational forums for fiduciaries in the region, so that they can better exercise prudent stewardship of the funds entrusted to their care. Visit [www.apafs.org](http://www.apafs.org) for further information. (APAFS)



### BIBA STALLIONS!

Congratulations to the Tinian Junior Senior High School JROTC Leadership Team. They are one of the four first placers for level II of the online JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl competition in the 8th Brigade, which includes schools from Washington, Arkansas, Montana, California, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Hawaii, American Samoa, Korea, Japan, and Guam. They started out Level I against 1,345 teams, then Level II challenging 570 teams. Altogether, there will be 40 teams competing in the JLAB Championship and joining in on Group Symposiums during their time at George Mason University, at Fairfax, VA, from June 22 to 26. The Stallion Battalion JLAB Leadership Team members are Marquina M. Hofschneider, Veronica Borja, Samantha Wedding (who just arrived from the Long Beach California Drill Competition), Noelanie Santos, and Josue Cruz. We would like to also recognize their hardworking JROTC instructors and mentors to the students, CSM Richard Basa and SSG Roger Thompson. A mega hooah to the Stallion Battalion and their teachers!



### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

#### ADDENDUM NO. 1

02/29/2012

ITB12-GOV-040

#### Roof Replacement, Building A, Northern Marianas College As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan

The previously advertised notice, Invitation to Bid ("ITB") for the "Roof Replacement, Building A, Northern Marianas College, As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan" has been amended. The specific amendment is to introduce two (2) sheets of drawings, provide answers to RFI No. 01, revise bid schedule/proposal and extend bid submission deadline. The following amendments are as follows:

1. Introduce two drawings indicated as "Drawings Sheet A-1.2" & "A-1.4"
2. Request for Information (RFI) No. 01 will be provided to prospect contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting held February 14, 2012
3. Revise bid schedule and bid proposal will also be provided in the same manner
4. Bid submission deadline is hereby extended to 10:00 AM ChST, March 13, 2012 originally 10:00 AM, March 06, 2012

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Thursday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408.



# Parks, public lands eyed as education centers

»Initiative will help build skills among students in the growing outdoor economy

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced last week a new agreement to build, develop and formalize programs that use national parks, national wildlife refuges and other public lands as classrooms and catalysts for 21st century education—designed to benefit teachers, students and parents in rural America and urban classrooms alike.

The announcement came in advance of Friday's White House Conference on Conservation that was hosted at the Department of the Interior that will spotlight community-driven conservation efforts as part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

The memorandum of understanding signed by Salazar and Duncan enables the Department of the Interior and the Department of Education to work together in new and more effective ways to connect young Americans to the outdoors, improve environmental literacy, support experiential learning outside the classroom, and form partnerships at the local level to learn from and conserve public lands.

Additionally, the agreement will help implement the President's goals for the Department of Education by investing in the education necessary to build a workforce with skills to succeed in the conservation and outdoor recreation economy and to develop careers in science, technology, engineering and math

(STEM).

"A new economy that's built to last requires that we make sure our children get the education and training they need so we have a workforce ready to take on the jobs of tomorrow," said Salazar. "This innovative partnership will help schools use our national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands as educational and professional development tools to bring new environmental and historical knowledge to students and develop skills for the next generation of workers in America's growing outdoor economy."

America's outdoor economy—including outdoor recreation, conservation and heritage initiatives—powers 8.4 million jobs and generates more than \$1 trillion in economic activity annually, according to recent non-governmental estimates. Independent estimates also show that the leisure and hospitality sector could add 2.1-3.3 million jobs this decade—the third highest job growth potential by sector.

"Science, technology, engineering and math fields are driving forces in the global economy," said Duncan. "Partnerships between our nation's schools and our national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands is a smart approach that can



Salazar



Duncan

better prepare our children in STEM subjects by providing engaging, hands-on learning experiences, making lessons tangible, and enhancing schools' ties to their communities."

The agreement will create new bridges between America's schools and its public lands—often at the local level, where national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands exist in close proximity to communities, ideally situated as outdoor classrooms for teachers and students nationwide.

Under the agreement, Interior may offer both in-service and pre-service professional development opportunities for teachers and other educators, including workshops, in-depth subject-matter seminars, and summer employment opportunities. The goals include improving teaching skills and developing deeper levels of subject-matter expertise, with a special emphasis on those who work in, or will work in, Title I, rural, and other high-need schools.

Through its relationships with state educational agencies, local school districts, and colleges and universities, the Department of Education can serve as a resource in developing a range of teaching and classroom skills

for Interior employees, including Bureau of Indian Education funded schools, and partners who serve as educators in the classroom and on public lands. The Department of Education will also commit to encourage math and science, American history, and other programs.

This initiative will build upon, elevate and formalize some programs already in place. The National Park Service, for example, presents more than 95,000 education programs annually and reaches more than 2 million students enrolled in K-12 schools. It also provides extensive online resources for students and teachers. More than 40 parks have educational institutes and field schools.

Other key ongoing initiatives include the Fish and Wildlife Service's "schoolyard habitat" and "biologists-in-training" programs. In fact, the National Wildlife Refuge System welcomes almost a million school children each year to these and other environmental education programs and partnerships held at hundreds of refuges around the nation. Additional programs include Science camps held by the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Hands on the Land initiative—a network of outdoor classrooms involving six federal agencies that connects America's students, teachers and parents to their public lands and waterways, while supporting school-based curricula correlated to local standards of learning. (DOI)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 6, 2000

### Labor and business reform proposal endorsed in House

The House Commerce and Tourism has endorsed a comprehensive labor and business reform measure it said will rebuild the local economy, ease regulations on hiring of nonresident workers and provide opportunities for locals in the private sector. Offered by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, the bill was taken up during a session Saturday, but the 18-member chamber agreed to defer action until after it has reviewed amendments made by the committee. In a report adopted at the brief House session, the committee chaired by Rep. Florencio T. DeLeon Guerrero described the legislation as one of "most important" introduced in the CNMI Legislature in many years.

### DPH spends \$5 million yearly for dialysis treatment

The Department of Public Health spends \$4.9 million every year for the care of 51 renal dialysis patients in the Commonwealth Health Center, or about 10 percent of DPH budget. However, this does not include the cost associated when patients are brought off-island for further treatment when complications get serious. Sixty-five percent of those under dialysis are diabetics. According to Dr. James Hofschneider, the financial burden of shouldering the cost of the treatment for people who undergo dialysis is placed under the responsibility of the government which is already suffering from the budgetary constraints.

Mar. 6, 2002

### Governors back highway funding

CNMI Gov. Juan N. Babauta has co-signed with 45 other governors a letter to the US House and Senate leadership asking that fiscal year 2003 funds for the federal aid highway program remain at the fiscal 2002 level. President Bush has proposed a 2003 budget with a 27 percent cut in highway spending. The February 25 letter, signed during the National Governors Association winter meeting in Washington, calls highway construction spending "key to economic security" as well as an important factor in preventing job losses.

### Dai-ichi wins appeal of order to reinstate nonresident workers

A unanimous panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Court on Friday issued a decision reversing an earlier US District Court order requiring the hotel to offer employment contracts to 38 former contract workers. "The hotel is extremely gratified by the Ninth Circuit's ruling," stated Douglas Hall, one of the hotel's attorneys. "The fact that the court issued its decision less than three weeks after the case was argued shows that the National Labor Relations Board's actions in this case were obviously improper." The 38 employees at issue were nonresident workers whose contracts were not renewed in 1998, whether because they were replaced by local applicants under CNMI Law or as part of an economic reduction in force.

Mar. 6, 2003

### Accountancy bill makes it past Senate

The long-standing goal to offer accounting licensure exams in the Commonwealth is now closer to realization, following the Senate's unanimous approval of the House bill intended for this purpose. Eight senators present during a session Tuesday threw their support behind House Bill 13-004—a piece of legislation that has been sitting in the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee for many months. Senate Vice President Jose M. Dela Cruz, the committee chairman, lobbied for the members' support on the bill that, he said, could also stimulate the local economy. Bill author Rep. Oscar M. Babauta—who has advocated passage of the legislation for the last four years—was delighted over the Senate action.

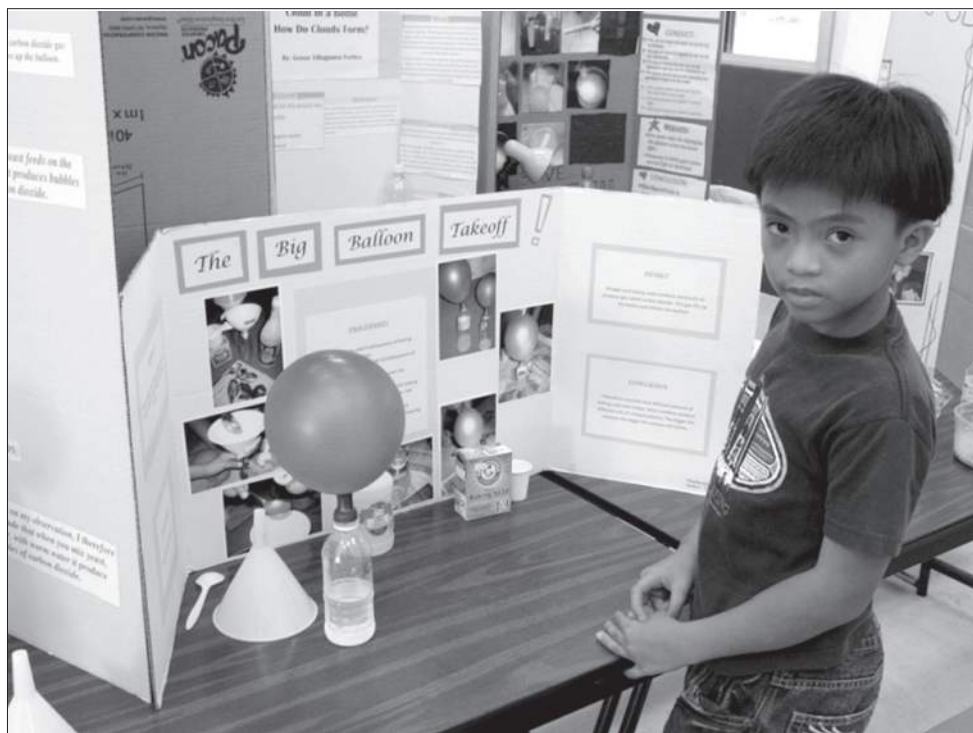
### Babauta supports NMC's gateway project

Governor Juan N. Babauta expressed his support yesterday for the Northern Marianas College' proposed Pacific Gateway program. Babauta said the project is actually part of his administration's economic stimulus package that was submitted to the Legislature. "From our standpoint, we support that project and idea generally. In my package, I suggested a way in which the Legislature can put together funding from various projects, combining those money together to an amount that is close to what the president is looking for the purchase of a facility or financing," Babauta told reporters yesterday.

## SCIENCE PROJECTS

Garapan Elementary School completed an exciting show of science projects. Science projects from kindergarten to 6th grade were displayed in the school cafeteria. Projects were related to physical science, earth and space, technology and life science. Over 35 science projects were on display and judges worked together to pick the school's seven overall winners to enter the Islandwide STEM Fair 2012. The seven overall winners are Kristina A. Silapan 2nd Grade, Timothy Acosta 3rd Grade, Austin D. Sanagun 3rd Grade, Pution San Nicolas 4th Grade, Erika Cunanan 5th Grade, Charissa Parco 5th Grade, and Joyce Nisola 6th Grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

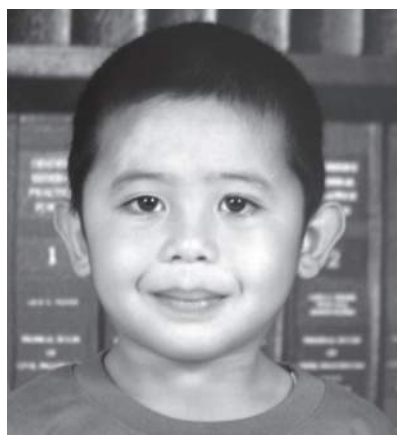
Belated happy birthday to my one and only daughter, Lynette Joyce Vasquez, who turned 15 on March 4. May your dreams come true and I love you endlessly. Shoutout coming from Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Grandma Lydia! May you have many more birthdays to come, hope you enjoy your day, and God bless you! Greetings come from your grandkids and great-grandkids.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations Auztyn Jessie Mendiola Dela Cruz for winning first place in the Oleai Elementary School's Science Fair and for winning third place in the Islandwide STEM Fair. We are so proud of you. Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Neisha, Nana, and Tata.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Island Snapshots



## WELL DONE!

Participants in Hopwood Junior High School's STEM Fair have their picture taken with principal Jonas Barcinas, left, after taking part in the school level competition. The school's seven top scoring students represented the school at the island-wide STEM Fair held at Saipan Southern High last March 3, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## MOCK TRIAL HONOREES

Marianas Baptist Academy team members pose for a group photo after being hailed as runner-up and recipient of the mock trial competition's Supreme Court Professionalism Award during awarding ceremonies Friday night at Saipan Grand Hotel. The MBA team members include Kenny Sung Eun An, Jodel Fernandez, Se Young Hwang, Dong Hee Im, Young Eun Lee, Manatsu Omori, Eunice Park, and Han Sol Yu. Their coaches included teacher Paul Murphy and attorneys Jennifer Dockter and Adam Hardwicke.

ROSELYN MONROYO



Marianas High School's Mike Johnson is all smiles after receiving the best prosecution witness award during Friday night's ceremonies.

ROSELYN MONROYO



Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. & Sr. High' School's Austin Delos Santos shows his best defense witness award.

ROSELYN MONROYO



Tinian Jr. & Sr. High School's Kyle Sanbergen is the mock trial's best defense witness awardee.

ROSELYN MONROYO



Mount Carmel School's Anastasia Rose Schweiger receives her best defense attorney award from event coordinator Heather Kennedy during the awarding rites held Friday night at Saipan Grand Hotel.

ROSELYN MONROYO



Marianas High School's Deveney Dela Cruz is the competition's best prosecution attorney.

ROSELYN MONROYO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### The politics of contraception

If you are poor, uninsured and a woman, it is very likely that the only health care you will receive with any regularity will be directly related to family planning, which is guaranteed by a federal law known as Title X. These free annual visits now routinely include screening for breast and cervical cancer and other health issues. Were it not for this safety net, millions of poor women would be at even greater risk.

This very basic health service, directed at a vulnerable population, is a victim of the fierce ideological battle over abortion. Specifically, the Republican-led effort to cut funding for Planned Parenthood has produced a number of measures across the country that are aimed at denying funding to any provider who can be even remotely associated with abortion clinics.

Federal and state law already prohibits taxpayer money from being spent on abortion, so this is not about the use of public funds. The underlying tactic here is to drastically curtail taxpayer funds for family planning because it would harm one of its largest providers, Planned Parenthood, whose mission, contrary to popular opinion, is overwhelmingly directed at primary care and prevention. If you can't legally close abortion clinics, goes the logic, declare economic war on the provider.

Gov. Rick Perry of Texas inadvertently acknowledged this strategy earlier this month when he said, erroneously, that his policies had led to the closing of about a dozen abortion clinics. What he and the Republican-controlled Texas legislature did last year was drastically cut funding for family planning and women's health programs. The result did not affect abortions, but it will end up denying access to contraception and health exams to as many as 180,000 poor women per year, a figure cited by the state's own health department.

The governor drew no distinction between family planning and abortion, which again is part of the national strategy aimed at Planned Parenthood. Though obvious, it is worth noting in this context that contraception is the primary safeguard against abortions. When you deny it, particularly to poor women, the consequences are obvious.

Now there is another front in this war. A decision last week by the Texas Health and Human Services commissioner formally bans Planned Parenthood clinics and affiliates from participating in the state's Women's Health Program, which was created in 2005 to expand access to family planning services. The timing of the decision—and the politics behind it—squares with the national strategy.

There are about 130,000 low-income women enrolled in the Women's Health Program. Most of the funds come through the federal Medicaid program, which explicitly forbids states from denying benefits because a provider offers certain services. The inherent conflict threatens to kill the program because the federal government has rightly signaled that it will pull its funding.

At some level, this becomes a debate over whether women, particularly poor women, should have the right to contraception. Is that really where we want to go?

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## Island views

*Editor's Note: The following are written by the students of the Writing Classes of Mrs. Robinson at the Northern Marianas College. The views expressed are solely those of the students.*

### Seoul

By HOJIN WOO

Have you ever visited Seoul, Korea? Seoul is my hometown, and it is also the capital of South Korea. There are many people who live in Seoul so there are many cars. Seoul has four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter. The four different seasons make Seoul a very beautiful city. The popular places to visit in Seoul are an old palace dating back to the 13th century, a modern building with 63 floors, and the Han River, a very large river where large ships sail. Seoul has a population of 10 million people. The Blue House, the presidential mansion, is located in Seoul. The Congress Building is also in Seoul as is the Supreme Court. Fifty years ago, Seoul was a very poor city. Today, Seoul has become a prosperous city, because the people work hard from morning to evening.

### My life on Saipan

By SELENA WANG

Do you enjoy your life on Saipan? My life as a college student on Saipan has two sides: it is precious and it is difficult.

I returned to Saipan in January 2012, after looking at other colleges in the U.S. mainland. I prefer to study in the U.S. mainland. In 2007 I graduated from Eucon International College on Saipan, then returned to my home in China. Since my return to Saipan last month, I have made friends who have helped me. They include a lady whom I call "Auntie." She helped me to get back in school. She also found a room for me. Mr. Wicksman who teaches reading and vocabulary at the Northern Marianas College also gives me extra essays to write. He also corrects my grammar and gives me many opportunities to read in class. I have also made new Chinese, Filipino, and Chamorro friends. All of these friends are very precious to me.

While I have many good friends, I also feel life here on Saipan is difficult. I am by myself. There is no one I can really communicate with, except God. I feel alone here. I miss my parents. I also feel there is no hope for me regarding the transfer of my credits from Eucon and from the university in China where I graduated from. I try my best to study diligently, but I still do not know when I can graduate from NMC. I hope to have my credits from Eucon transferred to NMC to use toward my graduation. I believe my life on Saipan is both precious and difficult.

### Repair of electronic devices

By DONGMEI GU

Have you ever repaired an electronic device by yourself? If I have a broken appliance at home, I try to fix it first by myself. It could be a rice cooker, an electric fan, or a computer. If I cannot fix it, then I take it to a repair shop. Last Sunday, I repaired an electric kettle that had stopped working. First, I found some tools to remove the bottom cover of the kettle. Then I looked carefully at each electric line inside the kettle. I found a broken wire so I believed I found the problem. I replaced the broken wire with a new wire. The kettle could work again. I was very happy. I had a special sense of accomplishment.

### My first car

By TIM SULA

Do you remember your first car? I got my first car two months ago. As an 18-year-old, I was so excited because having a car makes me feel mature. I had been waiting to have a car since I was a junior in high school. One Saturday morning at home, my dad called me to go to Triple J Motors and to bring my automobile license. As I hurried over to Triple J, thoughts ran through my mind. I wondered, "Why does my dad want me to bring my license?" When I got there, I saw a 2004 Hyundai Tiburon to my surprise. My dad told me to take it home. It was a red sports car. It is economical on gas, because the engine is only 2.0 liters. It is semi-automatic, which means it is both standard and automatic shift. I wish it was only standard shift, but having a semi-automatic is okay, too. This is a great car for me. I did not ask for my first car to be a sports car.

### A better future without alcohol

By MAVERICK MARLIK

Do you drink alcohol? I tried it recently, but I realized it was not good for my health. Many teenagers today drink alcohol, even in junior high and high school. Before you start drinking alcohol, think twice about the consequences. I know some people who died from drinking too much alcohol. When they were alive, these people were called alcoholics. I cannot believe a small island like Saipan imports so much alcohol. For those of you who drink alcohol to impress others, you are wasting your time. Alcohol will kill you. Alcohol is more than just a drink. Alcohol is also addictive; it can cause stomach ulcer. It is a problem to everyone on our island. Health is a major problem in the CNMI. People are dying from alcohol, because they cannot control their drinking.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## The citizenship waltz

“[A]cquisition of U.S. citizenship under the Covenant can be very complex...”

—7 *Foreign Affairs Manual* 1126.1g

“Be glad you’ve got what you’ve got when you’ve got it/Or you’re gonna find out what you’ve got is gone...”

—“Be Glad,” *Del Reeves, 1969*

Foreign-born children of people who became citizens on Nov. 4, 1986, through the Covenant, have been asking us if they became U.S. citizens, too, either at birth or at some later time. Other people, who became U.S. permanent residents during the time that the CNMI controlled its own immigration but who later may have gone out of status before Nov. 28, 2009, want to know if they can apply for naturalization yet. In each of these cases, the affected individuals must positively assert their rights. Can they all waltz right in? That’s what we’ll talk about today.

### Citizenship a year at a time?

“The following persons and their children under the age of 18 years... are declared to be citizens of the United States...”

—*Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America*, Section 301

We all usually consider the CNMI to have begun as a political entity on Jan. 9, 1978, Commonwealth Day. Interestingly, not everyone sees it that way. The State Department’s Foreign Affairs Manual, for example, notes that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was established on July 18, 1947, and then continues, “The Northern Mariana Islands became the self-governing Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), in political union with and under the sovereignty of the United States, on November 4, 1986.” 7 FAM 1126.1c. (7 FAM 1100, dealing with acquisition and retention of US citizenship and nationality, is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/7bny996>.)

The FAM does note that the federal courts don’t entirely agree with this description, however. The FAM acknowledges that in *Sabangan v. Powell* (2004), the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that under the Covenant the first section of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution became effective on Commonwealth Day, and therefore all children born in the CNMI beginning 11am on Jan. 9, 1978, were U.S. citizens by birth. With palpable reluctance, the State Department states that although it “believed the decision was clearly erroneous, the Solicitor General’s office did not seek Supreme Court review, and it is now final.” 7 FAM 1126.3c(5).

According to the State Department, Covenant Section 301 “was difficult to administer since it established a complicated set of criteria under which a CNMI domiciliary could acquire U.S. citizenship,” application of which “required judicial and negotiated interpretations.” 7 FAM 1126.3a & b. One of those judicial interpretations was *Sabangan*, but *Sabangan* only provided citizenship for children born inside the CNMI on and after Jan. 9, 1978.

What about children born to—or adopted by—people who became U.S. citizens on Nov. 4, 1986, through the Covenant? That issue was decided long before *Sabangan*, in the 1987 case *Dela Cruz v. U.S.* Under *Dela Cruz*, persons domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands or in the U.S. on Nov. 4, 1986, and born in the Northern Mariana Islands to at least one parent born in the former TTPI, are U.S. citizens. But the decision also defined “all persons” in Covenant Section 301 to include any person *and that person’s children*, using the definition of “child” in the Immigration & Nationality Act (INA)—which includes children adopted under the age of 16, and certain other children who fit into various exceptions. Most important, the FAM makes it clear that “such children did not have to be born in the CNMI nor did they have to be domiciled in the CNMI or U.S. on November 4, 1986.” 7 FAM 1126.3c(1).

So, if before Nov. 4, 1986, you were born to, or adopted by, someone who became a U.S. citizen via the Covenant, you can waltz right in and get your passport, right? That seems to be the law, but we have a client who was adopted in the early 1980s by a TTPI citizen who himself later became a citizen via the Covenant. The child should not have any problem proving her U.S. citizenship, right? Even if she was later taken to the Philippines while she was still a child? We think she is a U.S. citizen, but apparently there is some confusion in the U.S. Consulate in Manila and in the U.S. passport office in Honolulu, each of which has issued her a U.S. passport—each good for only one year.

Citizen for a year? Really? How does that work? There seems to be no problem with USCIS, but remember, it’s the State Department that issues passports, and is dedicated to “strict application of

the law,” to quote the FAM. We’re trying to straighten it out, and we’ll let you know what happens.

### Five years and two weeks: in or out?

“With respect to children born abroad to United States citizen or non-citizen national parents permanently residing in the Northern Mariana Islands the provisions of Section 301 and 308 of the [Immigration and Nationality] Act will apply.”

—*Covenant*, Section 506(b)

So if you became a U.S. citizen pursuant to the Covenant, which of your children who were born after Nov. 4, 1986, are also U.S. citizens? Obviously, any of those children born in the CNMI or any other part of the U.S. are automatically U.S. citizens. Doesn’t the same apply to your children born in another country? Sometimes.

If you married the non-citizen parent of a child while the child was still under the age of 18, that child becomes your stepchild under the INA, and you can apply for a green card for her, and she can later become a U.S. citizen if all conditions are met. If you adopt the non-citizen child and she lives in your legal and physical custody for two years, you can apply for a green card for her and, if the child is under 18 when he or she becomes a permanent resident, she automatically becomes a U.S. citizen.

But what about your biological child who was born in another country after you became a U.S. citizen? There are rules, sometimes complicated, about when you can transmit your U.S. citizenship to your child. A good, simplified summary of these rules is on the instruction form for USCIS Form N-600, which is the form used to apply for a certificate of citizenship for children residing in the U.S.; it’s available at <http://tinyurl.com/yg6c49>. (The form used to apply for a certificate for children who regularly reside abroad, Form N-600K, is available at <http://tinyurl.com/2da9e7>.)

Covenant Section 506(b) specifies that INA Section 301—not to be confused with Covenant Section 301—applies to children born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent who permanently resides in the CNMI. Although Covenant Section 506 was repealed by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA), aka “the federalization statute,” we still look to it to determine a number of immigration issues that depend on events that occurred before the CNRA became effective. This includes the citizenship of children born abroad to CNMI-resident U.S. citizen parents before Nov. 28, 2009.

INA Section 301 is one of the parts of the INA that defines who is and who is not a US citizen. (INA Section 308, also mentioned in Covenant Section 506, only affects the children of non-citizen nationals of the U.S. Both INA Sections, 301 and 308, are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/yce6wlq>.) INA Section 301(g), in particular, states the basic rule for transmitting citizenship to these children:

The following shall be nationals and citizens of the United States at birth:

“(g) a person born outside the geographical limits of the United States and its outlying possessions of parents one of whom is an alien, and the other a citizen of the United States who, prior to the birth of such person, was physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years...”

Therefore, to transmit U.S. citizenship to a child born abroad, the U.S. citizen parent first must meet all these qualifications before the child is born. If your child does not qualify under those rules, then you will have to look at another part of the INA, such as Section 320, which requires that the child immediately becomes a U.S. citizen if she is under 18 years old, living with you in the U.S., *and* first becomes a U.S. permanent resident. If the child is over 18 years old and hasn’t passed through permanent residence, Section 320 won’t work, and some other path to permanent residence and citizenship must be found.

Timing is critical here. We have a client whose father was over 14 years old when he became a U.S. citizen under the Covenant. He was physically present in the CNMI until our client was born in Manila, five years and a couple of weeks after Nov. 14, 1986. INA Section 301 and a citizen since birth? We think so. INA Section 320 and out of luck? That’s what USCIS thought. We’re discussing it with them.

### Four years and a day? Or two years and a half and a day?

“Nothing in [the CNRA] shall be construed to make any residence or presence in the Commonwealth before [November 28, 2009] residence or presence in the United States, *except that, for the purpose only of determining whether an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence . . . has abandoned or lost such status by reason of absence from the United States, such alien’s presence in the Commonwealth before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered*

## IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and  
BRUCE MAILMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

to be present in the United States.”

—*Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, U.S. Public Law 110-229, Section 705(c). (Emphasis added.)*

Covenant Section 506 also provided that aliens who lived in the CNMI and were the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens also living here (or only absent temporarily, such as members of the armed forces or students) would be considered to be inside the U.S. for immigration purposes. That meant that quite a few people qualified for, and obtained U.S. permanent residence but, for one reason and another, did not proceed to become U.S. citizens.

For many of these people, something happened to interrupt their residence “inside” the U.S.—the U.S. citizen spouse passed away, or the couple got divorced, or the child who obtained a green card turned 21—and in each of these cases, rather than timely moving to other parts of the U.S., even Guam, the permanent resident remained in the CNMI. The result? After enough time passed, the old INS and, later, USCIS, considered these permanent residents to be out of status and some of them even lost their green cards.

The CNRA changed all that, by curing any defect in the status of these people, if the defect resulted from continued residence in the CNMI. But the cure was not total: time during which they were out of status would not count toward the time necessary to apply for naturalization. We discussed this issue in a prior column (“Four Years and a Day”), published in the last week of April 2010, and in that column set out the naturalization rules of U.S. permanent residents in some detail.

Briefly, people who obtained green cards based on marriage must reside continuously in the U.S. for three years from their approval date to apply for U.S. citizenship, if the marriage still exists. If the marital relationship no longer exists, or if the person acquired permanent residence by some other means such as employment, then the minimum continuous residence is five years. Most green card holders who were out of status before the effective date of the CNRA, which was Nov. 28, 2009, are in the five-year category. The applicant must also have been physically present in the U.S. for the 30 months immediately prior to the application date.

Most permanent residents subject to the five-year rule, who have been outside the U.S. for so long that they no longer have credit for prior continuous residence, must wait four years and a day after returning to the U.S. before filing for naturalization. But U.S. permanent residents in the CNMI, who had their five years continuous U.S. residence before falling out of status, should be able to be credited for those five years, and file only 30 months and a day after re-entering the U.S. That is, 30 months after Nov. 28, 2009: that date is Tuesday, May 29, 2012. (Different times apply to people who were green card holders living in the CNMI before the CNRA effective date, who were not also the immediate relatives of CNMI-resident U.S. citizens.)

Why is this important? Other than the simple desire to become U.S. citizens, these people may wish to apply for, or expedite existing green card applications of, immediate relative spouses or children. The current waiting time before processing green card applications of immediate relatives of permanent residents is roughly two years and eight months but it fluctuates, most often being around four years. There is no waiting time for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens although of course there is the time for processing, currently between three and five months on average. It is important, sometimes vitally important, for these families to get their applications processed as soon as possible.






*The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to [lexmarianas@pticom.com](mailto:lexmarianas@pticom.com). Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com).*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79

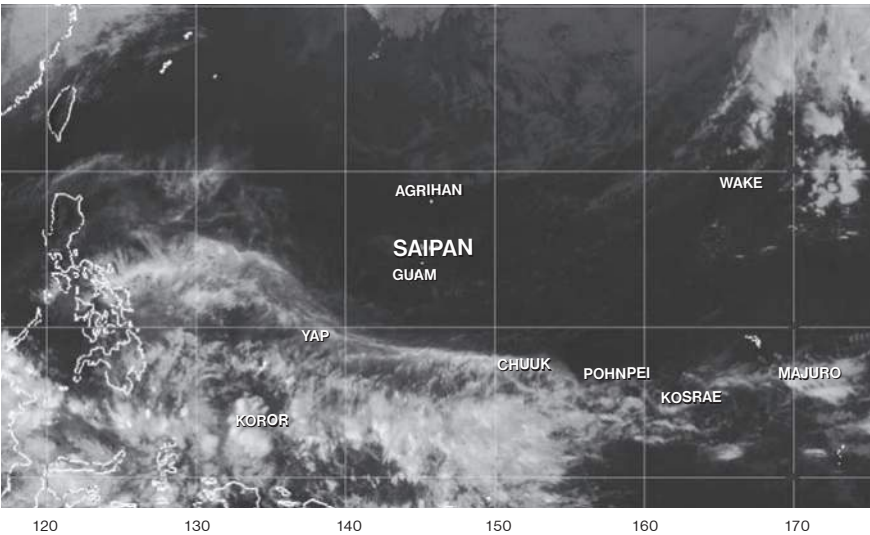
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 62
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 25
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	▲ 76 ▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 59
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 42 ▼ 24
Osaka	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 46
Paris	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 33
Pusan	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 38
Rome	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 44
Salem	Rain	▲ 45 ▼ 32
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 47
Seoul	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 29
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 47
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 28

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
6:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
12:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	
5:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold unstable flow is causing cloudiness and patchy rain north of a line from 20N145E to 25N162E to well beyond 25N. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N169E to 21N165E then continues as a shear line and trails off near 15N154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are along and up to 150 miles northwest of the cold front and in an area north of 22N from 160E to 170E. Clouds and a few showers are along and up to 100 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough extends from 4N130E to EQ133E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Koror are south and west of a line from 7N130E to 5N136E to EQ136E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well southeast of Yap and south of Chuuk between the equator and 6N from 139E to 155E and across Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line from 6N154E to 7N159E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Majuro and Tarawa east of a line from 7N167E to 1N173E to beyond the date line.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:22 PM	4:23 AM
Wednesday	5:19 PM	5:09 AM
Thursday	6:17 PM	5:54 AM
Friday	7:16 PM	6:40 AM
Saturday	8:17 PM	7:27 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## China calls for boost in domestic consumption

**BEIJING (AP)**—China's premier on Monday called for a boost in domestic consumption to keep the economy expanding while overseas markets remain weak, and pledged greater support for social security, employment and public housing to help those left behind by the nation's economic boom.

Premier Wen Jiabao's comments to open the annual National People's Congress high-

light government efforts to shift to economic growth based on consumer spending and technology-based industries and reduce reliance on exports and low-cost labor. Outside analysts say such a shift is essential to keep China's economy growing and raise incomes.

Wen announced that the government planned growth of 7.5 percent this year—a target below previous goals. The

government wants a slightly slower pace of growth as it tries to rebalance the world's second-largest economy.

"China's economy is encountering new problems. There is downward pressure on economic growth. Prices remain high. Regulation of the real estate market is at a crucial stage," Wen said.

Boosting domestic consumption is crucial to China's future,

Wen said. He promised increased spending on health care and social services to free up disposable income, along with higher wages for middle- and low-income earners. He said the government would support more paid vacation, expanded consumer credit and greater buying options to help people spend more.

Subsidies for agriculture also would be boosted. Just under 50 percent of China's 1.3 billion people live in rural areas that are

dependent on agriculture. More tuition assistance would be provided for rural students.

"Expanding domestic demand, particularly consumer demand, which is essential to ensuring China's long-term, steady, and robust economic development, is the focus of our economic work this year," Wen said.

China has produced three decades of rapid growth primarily through exports, but the sluggish world economy and rising wages within China raise ques-

tions about how long that can continue. World Bank president Robert Zoellick said last week that the economic strategy is unsustainable. The bank issued a report with a Chinese Cabinet think tank that called for more free-market reforms.

Wen's one-hour-and-50-minute report outlining priorities for 2012 was China's "state of the nation" address and opened 10 days of meetings for nearly 3,000 delegates in the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

## Screws tighten on European automakers

**MILAN (AP)**—As automakers prepare to roll out new models this week at the Geneva Auto Show—one of the major events in the automotive calendar—they are being forced to fight for a slice of an ever-shrinking European market stricken with austerity and recession.

On top of this, carmakers are also having to confront the uncomfortable fact that a large number of their production lines are lying idle and eating up valuable funds. Industry executives, including Fiat and Chrysler chief executive Sergio Marchionne, have estimated that Europe's car industry has the production capacity to build 20 per cent more vehicles than they are currently able to sell, an imbalance that hurts both their ability to compete and bottom line, especially as European sales tumble.

This problem of overcapacity and underused factories is one that automakers have long lamented, but can no longer ignore. Fiat, PSA Peugeot-Citroen, Opel, Renault and Ford Europe all are losing money in Europe—even when sales in emerging economies such as China help keep the companies in the black.

"If I could do only one thing, it would probably be to create

a flexible work environment to manage supply and demand," Marchionne, who is also chairman of the European Auto Manufacturers Association, said recently in Brussels.

Cars sales in Europe this year are forecast to decline by nearly 5 percent to 12.9 million units, according to the Center for Automotive Research—down from 15.7 million in 2000.

European auto demand has dried up as consumer confidence buckles under the pressure of government austerity measures, rising and persistent unemployment and the deepening of southern Europe's recession. In addition, most of the pent-up demand was taken out of the market during "cash-for-clunkers" incentives that governments introduced to help automakers in the 2008 financial crisis. The countries with the biggest number of idle production lines are France, Italy and Spain.

Gaining a competitive edge with attractive new models and updated technology like those to be showcased at the Geneva event may help find a cure. But the tougher medicine will mean taking an ax to European factories—which will lead to job losses.

"There are too many cars,

and too many brands making similar cars. There is going to be lots of consolidation in the European market, and closed plants, and consolidation of brands," said IHS Automotive analyst Tim Urquhart.

There has already been a casualty: Saab Automobile filed bankruptcy in January after a two-year effort to revive the distinctive carmaker with one of the strongest brand followings in the industry.

More positively, General Motors and France's PSA Peugeot Citroen this week announced a strategic alliance that gives the U.S. auto giant a 7 percent stake in Peugeot in exchange for a euro1 billion (\$1.32 billion) capital increase. The two companies said that, together, they'll be better equipped to survive Europe's brutally competitive car market by developing a common small car platform by 2016, and with a combined purchasing power of \$125 billion.

"I think (the) announcement from PSA and GM is an indication that people are looking for real solutions now. Just putting two companies together doesn't solve a capacity issue, so things are going to have to happen," Ford chief financial officer Lewis Booth told reporters in Detroit.



A delegate smokes as he and others leave the Great Hall of the People after attending the opening session of the annual National People's Congress in Beijing, China, Monday, March 5, 2012.

## BP settlement includes new health claims process

**BOOTHVILLE, La. (AP)**—A settlement that BP is hammering out with victims of the massive Gulf oil spill finally provides a system for monitoring health concerns and compensating people whose illnesses are found to have a link to the disaster.

Government and university doctors studying locals' health haven't found significant evidence of spill-related illnesses, but problems years from now remain a question mark. Gulf Coast residents say they're happy their complaints are getting a serious look, even if they'll face hurdles in proving that rashes, shortness of breath and other maladies were caused by the oil or chemical dispersants sprayed to break it up.

Under the settlement announced Friday, BP said it expects to pay out \$7.8 billion to settle a wide range of claims that also include property damage, lost wages and loss to businesses. While a previously created fund had already been paying such economic loss claims, it hadn't paid claims over illnesses related to exposure.

Nicole Maurer, a resident of this fishing community, said

she feels optimistic about getting medical bills paid under the court-supervised process. She blames the spill for a number of her family's health problems.

"Bright and early, I'm getting my kids on the school bus and calling my lawyer tomorrow, and see what's going on," she said Sunday. "I'm being very hopeful and that it all works out in our favor."

First, Maurer and others like her will have to show that they got sick from the spill. To receive compensation, claimants will be examined by a court-approved health care practitioner. Then, a claims administrator working under the supervision of a federal judge will determine who should be paid.

"The workers have a different kind of exposure because they were there all the time, but anybody living in an area where they were at risk of exposure will be eligible to participate in the program," said Ervin Gonzalez, one of the plaintiff lawyers leading the litigation.

The settlement also establishes a program to monitor claimants' health for a period of 21 years. People whose physical

symptoms haven't yet developed will also be able to pursue claims. BP has also promised to pay \$105 million to improve health care around the Gulf region.

"You don't know what the long-term (health) effects will be," said another of the plaintiffs' lawyers, Steve Herman. "You don't know how the science is going to play out."

Herman said medical claims won't be paid until U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier gives final approval to the overall settlement, which could take months.

Observers said the legal wrangling over who will be eligible for medical compensation likely will be contentious and could take years to play out.

Blaine LeCesne, a tort law professor at Loyola University New Orleans, said getting medical claims covered under the proposed settlement was a victory for the plaintiffs.

At a trial, he said it would have been difficult to prove medical damage. "Medical claims are inherently speculative. We really don't know what the full scope of the medical problems are to exposure to the dispersants and the oil itself."

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Some delays as United absorbs Continental

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Passengers on United Continental Holdings Inc. flights this weekend faced delays and long telephone wait times as United swallowed up Continental's operations, but the company says more flights were on time Sunday than Saturday. The company combined passenger reservations data including frequent flier accounts from the two airlines early Saturday. United spokeswoman Megan McCarthy says a quarter of the company's flights on Saturday were delayed 30 minutes or more, but 99 percent of all flights were completed.

#### US prosecutors file for extradition of Kim Dotcom

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—U.S. federal prosecutors have filed papers seeking the extradition from New Zealand of Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom and three of his colleagues. New Zealand justice officials say papers were filed Friday in Auckland's North Shore District

Court. The court is not releasing the papers at this time. U.S. prosecutors accuse the four men of breaching copyright by facilitating millions of illegal downloads through their website, enriching themselves at the expense of movie makers and song writers. Dotcom is accused of a number of offenses including racketeering, which carries a maximum prison sentence of 20 years.

#### Asia stocks down after Obama's tough talk on Iran

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Asian stock markets fell Monday as tough talk by President Barack Obama over Iran's nuclear program and uncertainty over Greece's ability to clear the next hurdle in its debt reduction plan unnerved investors. Benchmark oil rose to near \$107 per barrel while the dollar gained against the euro but fell against the yen. Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 0.5 percent to 9,731.82 and South Korea's Kospi dropped 1 percent to 2,014.16. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.1 percent to 21,319.32 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.4 percent to 4,254.90.



# Nation

## Indiana baby found in field after tornado dies

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)**—An Indiana toddler found in a field after violent tornadoes died Sunday after being taken off life support, ending a hopeful tale for survivors in the Midwest and South picking through the storms' devastation.

Fifteen-month-old Angel Babcock of New Pekin, Ind., was found after her family's mobile home was destroyed in Friday's storms. Her father,

mother and two siblings were killed.

When Angel arrived at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville Friday night, she was opening her eyes—a hopeful sign, chief nursing officer Cis Gruebbel said.

Things turned on Saturday, when the swelling in her brain didn't decrease, he said. As the day went on, her eyes ceased to move and she continued to de-

teriorate. There was no sign of brain activity.

Medical staff told the family there wasn't anything more they could do. With extended family gathered to say goodbye, the family made the decision to end life support on Sunday.

"Angel has been reunited with her parents," her grandfather, Jack Brough, said in a statement. "We want to thank God for all of you and for your

thoughts and prayers. God will bring you and all of us out of this. This is what it will take. All should look to God."

The girl's death brings the overall toll from Friday's storms to 39 across five states. Rescuers were still going door-to-door in rural areas to rule out more victims. Another round of storms earlier last week killed 13 people in the Midwest and South, the latest in a string of severe-weather episodes ravaging the American heartland in

the past year.

On Sunday, people gathered to worship, comb through piles of debris and learn what happened to loved ones and friends, often without modern technology to help.

Cellphone signals were hard to find, Internet was out and electricity indefinitely interrupted. In many cases, word-of-mouth conversations replaced text messages, Facebook status updates and phone calls.

"It's horrible. It's things you

take for granted that aren't there anymore," said Jack Cleveland, 50, a Census Bureau worker from Henryville, Ind.

Randy Mattingly, a 24-year-old mechanic, said he and his Henryville neighbors passed on information by word-of-mouth to make sure people were OK: "It was like, 'Hey, did you talk to this guy?'" He said state police quickly set up two gathering points for adults and children, at the church and at a nearby community center.



Jessie Sexton, a volunteer, helps rummage through the remains of a home after a tornado in Henryville, Ind., Sunday, March 4, 2012.

## Dog survives 53 days in wild, reunited with owner

**RENO, Nev. (AP)**—Barbara Bagley says she never gave up hope that her dog would be found alive in the Nevada desert after the animal bolted from the scene of a crash that critically injured her and killed her husband.

But the Salt Lake City woman endured plenty of frustration until her beloved 4-year-old Shetland sheepdog, Dooley, was tracked down Feb. 18 after surviving 53 days in the wild on roadkill and scattered ranch water sources.

"I would think about Dooley constantly," she said. "There were TV commercials with dogs that made me think about him and cry. He's just the sweetest dog."

The Dec. 27 single-vehicle accident on Interstate 80 near Battle Mountain, about 225 miles east of Reno, sent Bagley and her 55-year-old husband, Brad Vom Baur, to the hospital in critical condition. Their other sheltie, Delaney, was killed in the wreck. Dooley ran away and vanished.

Bagley, 48, suffered a concussion, broken ribs, a shattered wrist and two punctured lungs. As soon as she mustered up enough strength, she turned her attention to a search for her dog in the sprawling sage-covered plains and hills of northeastern Nevada.

Realizing what Dooley could mean for her recovery, dozens of Nevada volunteers responded to a Facebook plea for help in

looking for him. But the search was canceled before it began after the Jan. 6 discovery of what appeared to be the dog's remains along the interstate. The same day, her husband died.

"It was a horrible day for me," Bagley recalled. "But something inside me told me Dooley was still alive out there. I wasn't 100 percent sure, but I didn't grieve for Dooley like I did for my husband and our other dog."

More than three weeks later, Bagley's spirits were buoyed after a woman reported spotting "a Lassie-type" dog near the accident scene. A subsequent search joined by Bagley turned up nothing, but a railroad crew spotted a dog matching the same description in mid-February in the same area about 15 miles east of Battle Mountain.

Further searches netted a positive identification of Dooley but frustration as well because the skittish dog kept fleeing from Bagley and other searchers. Finally, Shannon Sustacha of Lamoille, who was on horseback, and a Bagley friend driving a Jeep cornered Dooley only five miles from the crash scene. The friend managed to nab the sheltie and put him in the Jeep.

An ecstatic, tearful Bagley arrived at the scene a short time later.

"Barbara got next to us and said three times, 'You think he'll

remember me?'" Sustacha said. "When Barbara opened the door and looked at him, she said, 'My beautiful boy, my beautiful boy, you're home.' Oh, boy, all of us cried. I knew his adventure in Nevada was over. I also knew he and Barbara could start healing together."

A short time later, an exhausted Dooley sat on his owner's lap in the Jeep and fell asleep. He later began following Bagley around.

"I was overjoyed that I was going to have him back in my life. I think he felt the same about me," she said.

During his ordeal, Dooley's weight dropped from 44 pounds to 20 pounds. He was once spotted devouring a dead coyote along the roadway. A long bird bone was pulled from his throat by a veterinarian.

Since then, the dog has gradually put on weight and resumed regular walks with his owner. While Bagley is still going through the grieving process over her husband's death and recovering from her injuries, Dooley's presence has picked up her spirits immensely.

"He's the physical and mental affection that I need to recover," she said. "I owe him so much for the hope I have now and the renewed faith I have in prayer. Dogs are so great because of their unconditional love."

## Dachau survivor and liberator meet 6 decades later

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—The way Ernie Gross and Don Greenbaum laugh and tell jokes with the ease of old friends, it's easy to assume the dapper octogenarians have known each other forever.

In reality, they only met a few months ago. Their familiarity doesn't come from shared memories of a childhood playground or a high school dance but a far darker place: Both men spent a single day at the Dachau concentration camp on the day its 30,000 prisoners were liberated by American GIs in 1945.

Greenbaum, 87, and Gross, 83, don't think they met that day in Dachau but nevertheless share a bond. They met after Gross, who lives in Philadelphia, saw a mention in a local newspaper last November about Greenbaum, a Philadelphia native now living in suburban Bala Cynwyd.

"Ernie wanted to thank me for saving his life, quote unquote, even though there were 50,000 other men there with me," Greenbaum said, with a hint of unease, during an interview at Gross' home. "And we sat and had lunch together and discussed what happened 66 years ago."

## VaTech parents seek answers in trial 5 years later

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)**—The hours leading to the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history and the actions of Virginia Tech administrators will be replayed in a Christiansburg courtroom when the parents of two students slain in the April 2007 massacre press their legal effort to hold school officials accountable.

During the trial that begins Monday, Attorney Robert Hall said he'll call Tech President Charles Steger and other top university officials to explain their actions the day 33 were killed on the Blacksburg campus, including the gunman. Hall said the parents want an apology for what he calls the university's botched efforts after the two first killings occurred. He said he has new evidence that reveals further missteps.



In this Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012 photo, Dachau survivor Ernie Gross, left, and Dachau liberator Don Greenbaum pose for a photograph in Philadelphia.

"They want President Steger to say, 'I'm sorry. I'm so sorry for the death of your daughters,'" Hall said.

The lawsuits originally sought \$10 million for the wrongful deaths of Julia K. Pryde and Erin N. Peterson, but the damages are now capped at \$100,000 for each of their parents. The state is the lone defendant in the case, which has been scaled back from the lawsuit originally filed two years after the deadly shootings on Tech's Blacksburg campus.

Among the other 20-plus witnesses Hall plans to call will be students who survived the shooting rampage, the chief of Tech's police force and other university officials. The government is expected to call twice the number of witnesses during the trial that is likely to last a week.

Virginia Tech and Steger, among others, have been removed as defendants in the case.

Hall is expected to drill into the minutes between the slaying of two students in a dorm shortly after 7 a.m. on April 16 and the actions of university officials to alert the campus. An email informed the approximately 30,000 students on campus more than two hours later—after gunman Seung-Hui Cho had killed 30 in Norris Hall, a classroom building. He then killed himself.

A state panel that investigated the shootings concluded that officials erred in not sending an alert earlier. The lag in issuing a campus warning also cost Virginia Tech a \$55,000 fine from the U.S. Education Department. The school is appealing.



# Asia

## Report: Tibetan woman, student set selves on fire

**BEIJING (AP)**—A young mother and a student have become the latest people to set themselves on fire in protest against Chinese rule in Tibetan areas, a U.S. broadcaster said Monday.

U.S. government-backed Radio Free Asia said the 32-year-

old mother and the female student died after separately immolating in different provinces over the weekend.

More than 20 Tibetans have set themselves on fire in the last year to protest what they say are harsh Chinese policies that do not allow them to freely practice

## Australian state toughens law for Muslim veils

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**—Muslim women in Australia's most populous state will have to remove veils to have their signatures officially witnessed under the latest laws giving New South Wales officials authority to look under religious face coverings.

New South Wales state Attorney General Greg Smith said in a statement on Monday that beginning April 30, officials such as justices of the peace and lawyers who witness statutory declarations or affidavits without making identity checks will be fined 220 Australian dollars (\$236).

"If a person is wearing a face covering, an authorized witness should politely and respectfully ask them to show their face," Smith said.

The government on Monday began an information campaign to ensure the public and officials were aware of the new penalties before they came into force.

The laws are a response to a court case last year in which a Sydney woman was convicted of falsely claiming that a traffic policeman had attempted to remove her niqab—a veil that reveals only the eyes.

A judge overturned the conviction because the official who witnessed the false claim did not look under the veil of the person who made it, so the judge was not certain that the defendant was responsible.

The latest laws were passed

Dec. 23 by the state parliament. They follow New South Wales laws passed last year that introduced a AU\$5,500 (\$5,900) fine and a 12-month prison sentence for anyone who refuses to remove face coverings when requested to do so by police.

Ikebal Patel, president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils an advocate for Australian Muslims, said while some Muslims regarded the laws as a knee-jerk reaction to the court case, the majority did not object.

"I don't object as long as the laws are enforced with respect and sensitivity," Patel said.

Patel said he was also a justice of the peace and would never witness a document without seeking proof of the author's identity.

He said Muslim women can find female justices of the peace working at most post offices. Women who object to showing policemen their faces have an option of being taken to a police station where their identities can be confirmed by a female official.

New South Wales laws demanding the removal of religious face coverings are an Australian first, although other states including Victoria and Western Australia are considering similar legislation.

Muslims are a rapidly growing minority of 400,000 within Australia's Christian-majority population of 23 million.



Tibetan exiles shout slogans against the Chinese government as they are detained by Indian police, outside the venue where Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi is meeting with his Indian counterpart S.M. Krishna, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 1, 2012.

their religion.

The reported deaths came on the eve of the opening of China's annual legislative session, a time when security is tightened across the country. March is also a sensitive time for Tibet, marking several anniversaries, including that of the unsuccessful revolt against China that caused Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to flee in 1959, and deadly anti-government riots that rocked the Tibetan capital Lhasa in 2008.

The student set herself ablaze Saturday at a vegetable market in Gansu province's Maqu county and died at the scene, the report said, without giving the girl's name or age.

Chinese market vendors threw stones at the girl's burning body, the broadcaster said, citing an unidentified Tibetan exile with connections to the community in Maqu. It didn't say why they attacked her.

The girl was described as a middle school student, but

it was unclear whether she was in regular middle school, where students range from 13 to 16 years old, or senior middle school, where students can be up to 19. Calls to local Maqu schools rang unanswered.

On Sunday, a woman identified only as Rinchen set herself on fire in front of a police station by the main gate to the Kirti Monastery in Aba prefecture in Sichuan province. Radio Free Asia said she was a mother of three young children. A report Sunday by the London-based Free Tibet group said Rinchen had four children.

Radio Free Asia reported that Rinchen called for the Dalai

Lama to return to Tibet and freedom for Tibet as she set herself alight, quoting an exiled Tibetan monk in India, Kanyak Tsering.

Tibetan areas are mostly off-limits to foreign media and it was not possible to immediately confirm the claims.

A woman who answered the phone at the local Communist Party propaganda office in Aba declined to comment or give her name and referred calls to provincial authorities, who could not immediately be reached. A police official in Maqu said she was unaware of the report involving the student and hung up.

Free Tibet director Stephanie Brigden said Rinchen's self-im-

molation was the result of repression and attempts to assimilate Tibetans into Han Chinese culture.

"Tibetans are living under de facto martial law. China's response to protests—which are increasingly widespread—has been to intensify repression and surveillance, pushing Tibet deeper into crisis," she said in a statement.

China says it treats minority groups such as Tibetans fairly, and pours tens of billions of dollars into improving living conditions in their areas. The government has also accused the Dalai Lama and overseas Tibetans of being behind the protests and self-immolations.

## Norwegian among 2 killed in Philippine plane crash

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A small plane lashed by strong wind as it tried to land on a tourist island crashed into a coconut tree on Sunday, killing a Norwegian woman and a Filipino pilot, police said.

Two other Norwegian tourists—the husband and son of the woman who was killed—and an Indonesian co-pilot were seriously injured when

the Cessna plane crashed near a house and a road just outside the airport in Mambajao town, police officer Francisco Linda said.

The chartered plane had taken off from central Cebu province and was trying to land on the nearby island province of Camiguin when it was apparently buffeted by strong wind, went out of control and missed

the runway, according to Linda, who saw the troubled plane shortly before the crash.

"I think the pilot apparently tried to abort landing after missing much of the runway and tried to rapidly regain altitude but clipped the top of a coconut tree then slammed into another," Linda told The Associated Press by telephone. "The plane then tumbled down to the ground with the tree."

Norwegian tourist Rachel Strande, 37, and Filipino pilot Christian Cesar Cebrecus died as they were being taken to hospital, police investigator German Abian said.

Strande's 56-year-old husband, Lars, and three-year-old son, Jeus Ola, survived with bruises and other injuries along with Cebrecus' co-pilot, Nurmala Dewy, Abian said, adding the three were still in shock and recovering at a Camiguin hospital.

Camiguin, about 440 miles (710 kilometers) southeast of Manila, is popular among local and foreign tourists for its white sand beaches and dive spots.



In this photo released by Philippine National Police of Camiguin, investigators look at the remains of a Cessna plane which crashed in Camiguin province, central Philippines, Sunday, March 4, 2012.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Korean nuclear envoys could meet during US forum

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—A South Korean official says that the rival Koreas' top nuclear envoys could meet during an unofficial security forum in the United States this week. Both envoys are scheduled to attend the three-day forum in New York starting Wednesday. It follows a breakthrough disarmament-for-aid deal between Pyongyang and Washington last week. A meeting between the Koreas is important because the United States has said that Pyongyang improving ties with Seoul is crucial to any diplomatic resolution of the nuclear standoff.

#### Japanese emperor goes home after heart surgery

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's 78-year-old emperor has left hospital after heart surgery. The Imperial Household Agency says Emperor Akihito returned home to his palace on Sunday following successful heart bypass surgery on Feb. 18. Nationally televised news showed him walking on his own, bowing to doctors, getting in a car

with his wife Michiko and then waving from the window. Akihito has been eager to take part in the anniversary events of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan, where he has visited often with Michiko. Akihito has developed various health problems in recent years, including pneumonia late last year and prostate cancer in 2003.

#### Death toll rises to 25 in China plant blast

**BEIJING (AP)**—A state news agency says the death toll from an explosion at a chemical plant in northern China has risen to 25, with four missing and 46 others injured. The official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday that the death toll rose from the original 16 killed in Tuesday's blast. About 100 people were working at the Hebei Zhaoxian Keeper Chemical Co. plant in Hebei province's Zhaoxian county. Xinhua earlier said rescue work was dangerous because of the risk of other explosions. China's State Administration of Work Safety said the blast occurred during production of a high-energy fuel and propellant, guanidine nitrate.



## World

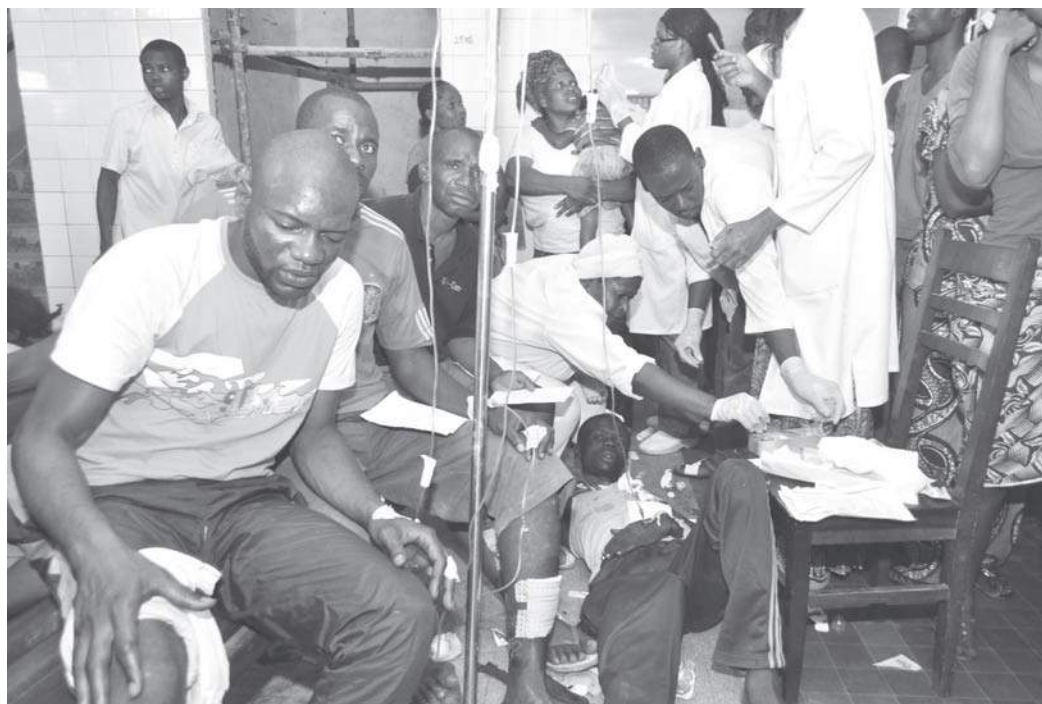
## 206 killed in Republic of Congo arms depot blasts

**BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo** (AP)—Homes and buildings collapsed in the Congolese capital after an arms depot exploded Sunday, killing at least 206 people and entombing countless others in crushed structures including inside two churches that buckled while parishioners were celebrating Mass, officials and witnesses said.

The shock waves shattered windows in a three-mile (five-kilometer) radius surrounding the barracks storing the munitions, including across the river that separates Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo, from Kinshasa, the capital of the larger Central African nation of Congo. Government spokesman Bienvenu Okyemi blamed a short-circuit for the fire that set off the successive blasts.

"It's like a tsunami passed through here," said Christine Ibata, a student. "The roofs of houses were blown off."

The register of a morgue in Brazzaville already had 136 bodies Sunday afternoon, as more continued to arrive. A doctor at the capital's military hospital who asked not to be named because he was not authorized



Injured people are treated by health workers at a hospital, after multiple explosions occurred at a munitions depot, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, Sunday, March 4, 2012.

to speak to the press reported 70 more deaths.

President Denis Sassou-Nguesso toured two hospitals and a morgue as injured people were being brought in including a 4-year-old boy who had lost his leg. The president was visibly moved, and in a state-

ment read on state TV he said, "We have no less than 100 dead, many wounded and significant structural damage."

The president said that the government was doing it all it could to launch a rescue effort.

"We are trying to organize ourselves. I am asking the pop-

ulation to show courage and solidarity. ... All the material and human loss will be evaluated and the government will take a just decision," Sassou-Nguesso said. "This tragedy is an accident."

It's unclear what started the fire at the barracks located in a

populated neighborhood of the capital, but an official at the president's office said the depot is used to store war-grade weapons including mortars. The first blast went off at around 8 a.m., and several smaller blasts were heard throughout the morning. Another major explosion went off at around 1 p.m.

Residents woke up thinking that either an earthquake had hit them, or else a coup was under way in this nation that suffered through a 1997 civil war. Defense Minister Charles Zacharie Boawo appeared on national television to urge calm in Brazzaville and in the neighboring capital, Kinshasa.

"The explosions that you have heard don't mean there is a war or a coup d'etat," he said. "Nor does it mean there was a mutiny. It is an incident caused by a fire at the munitions depot."

Didier Boutsindi, an official in the president's office, said the explosion woke him "with the force of an earthquake." Doors in his house, located several miles (kilometers) away from the epicenter of the blast, were thrown open and several windows cracked. He began

making calls, and when he realized the origin of the explosion, his first thought was his uncle, whose home is located just next to the depot. "The house fell completely," Boutsindi said. "He was sleeping. His wife was at church. His children—small children—were playing outside," he said. "The neighbors dug out the body and brought him to the morgue."

The uncle's body was among the countless others that were being brought in by car, on stretchers, and carried by shell-shocked residents. The death toll is expected to rise, Boutsindi said, as many more people remained trapped inside crushed structures, including the faithful of the St. Louis Catholic Church, who were attending Mass when the blasts began. A smaller evangelical church also fell to the ground, witnesses said, burying its parishioners.

The explosions caused buildings to shake as far away as Kinshasa, separated from Brazzaville by the 3-mile-wide (4.8-kilometer-wide) Congo River. An enormous plume of smoke could be seen snaking across the sky.

## A tearful Putin claims Russian election victory

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Vladimir Putin swept Sunday's presidential election to return to the Kremlin and extend his hold over Russia for six more years, incomplete returns showed. His eyes brimming with tears, he defiantly proclaimed to a sea of supporters that they had triumphed over opponents intent on "destroying Russia's statehood and usurping power."

Putin's win was never in doubt as many across the vast country still see him as a guarantor of stability and the defender of a strong Russia against a hostile world, an image he has carefully cultivated during 12 years in power.

Accounts by independent observers of extensive vote-rigging, however, looked set to strengthen the resolve of opposition forces whose unprecedented protests in recent months have posed the first serious challenge to Putin's heavy-handed rule. Another huge demonstration was set for Monday eve-

ning in central Moscow.

With fewer than a quarter of the votes counted, Putin spoke to tens of thousands of supporters at a rally just outside the Kremlin walls. Many of them were government workers or employees of state-owned companies who had been ordered to attend.

"I promised that we would win and we have won!" Putin shouted to the flag-waving crowd. "We have won in an open and honest struggle."

Putin, 59, said the election showed that "our people can easily distinguish a desire for renewal and revival from political provocations aimed at destroying Russia's statehood and usurping power."

He ended his speech with the triumphant declaration: "Glory to Russia!"

Exit polls cited by state television predicted Putin would get about 59 percent of the vote. With more than 70 percent of precincts counted nationwide,

Putin was leading with 65 percent, the Central Election Commission said. Complete results were expected Monday.

Communist Party candidate Gennady Zyuganov was a distant second, followed by Mikhail Prokhorov, the billionaire owner of the New Jersey Nets whose candidacy was approved by the Kremlin in what was seen as an effort to channel some of the protest sentiment. The clownish nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and socialist Sergei Mironov trailed behind. The leader of the liberal opposition Yabloko party was barred from the race.

"These elections are not free. ... That's why we'll have protests tomorrow. We will not recognize the president as legitimate," said Mikhail Kasyanov, who was Putin's first prime minister before going into opposition.

The wave of protests began after a December parliamentary election in which observers produced evidence of widespread

vote fraud. Protest rallies in Moscow drew tens of thousands in the largest outburst of public anger in post-Soviet Russia, demonstrating growing exasperation with the pervasive corruption and tight controls over political life under Putin, who was president from 2000 to 2008 before moving into the prime minister's office due to term limits.

Golos, Russia's leading independent elections watchdog, said it received numerous reports of "carousel voting," in which busloads of voters are driven around to cast ballots multiple times.

After the polls closed, Golos said the number of violations appeared just as high as in December.

"If during the parliamentary elections, we saw a great deal of ballot-box stuffing and carousel voting ... this time we saw the deployment of more subtle technologies," said Andrei Buzin, who heads the monitoring operations at Golos.

defend Israel.

"I will not hesitate to use force when it is necessary to defend the United States and its interests," Obama said.

But he framed military force as a last resort, not the next option at a time when sanctions are squeezing Iran. The president seemed intent on quieting a drumbeat for war, saying even the talk of it has driven up the price of oil to the benefit of Iran.

## Obama assures Israel US force an option on Iran

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Barack Obama said Sunday he would not hesitate to attack Iran to keep it from getting a nuclear bomb, hoping a forceful assurance will discourage Israel from launching a unilateral strike that could ignite the Middle East and drag the U.S. into war.

Pleading for time for diplomacy to work, Obama warned that "loose talk of war" was only undermining world security.

Addressing a powerful pro-Israel lobby, Obama delivered messages to multiple political audiences: Israel, Iran, Jewish voters, a restless Congress, a wary international community and three Republican presidential contenders who will speak to the same group Tuesday.

At the core was his bullish assertion that the United States will never settle for containing a nuclear-armed Iran or fail to

Russian prime minister

**Vladimir Putin**

Early life

**Born** 1952, in Leningrad

**Education** Studied law and economics before joining KGB; worked as a spy in East Germany

**Family** Married, two children

**Early politics**

**1990** Joins staff of Anatoly Sobchak, progressive mayor of St. Petersburg

**1998** Sobchak defeated; Putin moves to Moscow and takes management posts in Boris Yeltsin's government

**1999** Appointed prime minister by Yeltsin; wins wide public approval by ordering attack on rebels in Chechnya

**As president**

**Dec. 31, 1999** Becomes acting president after Yeltsin resigns; elected to post three months later

**2004** Re-elected by landslide

**2005** Visits Israel; first visit by any Kremlin leader

**2008** Cannot run again due to term limits; named prime minister after protégé Dmitry Medvedev wins presidential election

**2012** Announces he will stand for president with Medvedev as his prime minister

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Source: MCT Photo Service, BBC

**Saudi Arabia: Syrians have right to defend themselves**

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Saudi Arabia said Sunday that Syrians have a right to take up arms to defend themselves against the regime and accused the Damascus government of "imposing itself by force," as concerns mounted over a humanitarian crisis there.

In a rare televised news conference, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said the kingdom welcomed international efforts to broker a ceasefire in Syria but added that they have "failed to stop the massacres."


"Is there something greater than the right to defend oneself and to defend human rights," he said, adding that the Syrian people want to defend themselves. "The regime is not wanted by the people," he said.

"The regime is insisting on imposing itself by force on the Syrian people," he said.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have been discussing military aid to the Syrian opposition, but the U.S. and others have not advocated arming the rebels, in part out of fear it would create an even more bloody and prolonged conflict. Sunni Saudi Arabia is wary of the wave of Arab Spring uprisings, particularly in nearby Bahrain, where a Shiite majority is demanding greater rights from its Sunni rulers. However, the kingdom strongly backs the largely Sunni uprising in Syria.



## Focus



# Medical bills can wreck credit, even when paid off

In this photo taken Feb. 10, 2012, Nathen and Melissa Cobb pose for a photo with their two children Joshua, 3, and Savannah, 7 months, at their home in Riverton, Ill.

**C**HICAGO (AP)—Mike and Laura Park thought their credit record was spotless. The Texas couple wanted to take advantage of low interest rates, so they put their house on the market and talked to a lender about a mortgage on a bigger home in the Dallas-Fort Worth suburbs.

Their credit report contained a shocker: A \$200 medical bill had been sent to a collection agency. Although since paid, it still lowered their credit scores by about 100 points, and it means they'll have to pay a discount point to get the best interest rate. Cost to them: \$2,500.

A growing number of Americans could encounter similar landmines when they refinance or take out a loan. The Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that sponsors health care research, estimates that 22 million Americans were contacted by collection agencies for unpaid medical bills in 2005. That increased to 30 million Americans in 2010.

Surprisingly, even after the bills have been paid off, the record of the collection action can stay on a credit report for up to seven years, dragging down credit scores and driving up the cost of financing a home. An estimated 3.4 million Americans have paid-off medical debt lingering on their credit reports, according to the Access Project, a research group funded by health care foundations and advocates of tougher laws on medical debt collectors.

Among them are Nathen and Melissa Cobb of Riverton, Ill., who tried to refinance their home last year. They didn't qualify for the loan because of \$740 in medical bills that had been sent to a collection agency. The Cobbs were

surprised because the bills—nearly a dozen small copayments ranging from \$6 to \$280—had been paid before they tried to refinance. The collection action took their credit score from good to mediocre and is likely to mar their credit report for years.

"I'm not one of those people trying to ditch out on my bills," 34-year-old Melissa Cobb said. "I'm really frustrated."

Medical bills make up the majority of collection actions on credit reports, and most are for less than \$250, according to Federal Reserve Board research.

The Parks had no idea a billing error they'd sorted out a year earlier—they never actually owed the \$200—could affect their credit. They didn't know the bill for a copayment on a PET scan Mike needed had been sent to a collection agency.

"We've prided ourselves in having impeccable credit. We worked hard to establish that," said Laura Park, a 51-year-old office manager married to a 53-year-old firefighter. They are going ahead with the home purchase while trying to fix their credit report.

"I'm very upset," Park said. "It's going to be a nightmare and who knows how long this is going to take to resolve."

Matt Ernst, a vice president at Mortgage Lenders of America in Overland Park, Kan., said medical collections frequently turn up on credit reports.

"We see a ton of them," Ernst said. They have an impact on financing, he said, but even he didn't realize how much until he learned that someone with a FICO score of 680—which is considered good, but not excellent—will see their score drop up to 65 points because of a medical collection.

"I didn't know a medical collection would hammer it that hard," Ernst said. "Our investors require a 620 to even get a loan."

It's a problem for insured and uninsured alike. Outright billing mistakes, confusion over whether a claim will be paid by insurance and disputes between insurance companies and doctors—all can lead to medical bills being sent to collection agencies.

Congress is considering legislation—the Medical Debt Responsibility Act—that would require credit agencies to delete paid-off medical debt from credit reports within 45 days.

"We're not talking about somebody buying a big screen television and not having the ability to pay. This is debt incurred because of a health condition. That makes medical debt unique," said bill co-sponsor U.S. Rep. Don Manzullo, an Illinois Republican.

The bill has bipartisan support in the House, said co-sponsor U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler, a North Carolina Democrat. Shuler said the health care industry sends delinquent bills to debt collectors quicker than any other industry.

"If it wasn't an industry that sent it straight to collections, we wouldn't be having this conversation," Shuler said. A Senate version was introduced last week.

For Illinois breast cancer survivor Lisa Lindsay, a \$280 medical bill led to state troopers showing up at her home and taking her to jail in handcuffs.

Like the Parks in Texas, she, too, said it started as a billing mistake. Her hospital told her the radiology bill would be covered because she qualified for a charity care program. But the radiology doctors' office sent the bill to a collection agency and, despite Lindsay's pro-

tests and the paperwork she kept sending, the matter ended up in court.

Lindsay believed that eventually the documentation would catch up with the bill and be settled. She went to court and told a judge her story. Later, she missed a court date—she said she was never informed of it—and that's when the state troopers showed up. Lindsay, a 46-year-old teaching assistant from Herrin, Ill., ended up paying more than \$600 because legal fees had been added to the original amount.

"I paid it in full so they couldn't do it to me again," Lindsay said. She recently testified at a hearing on aggressive debt collection practices in Illinois.

Refinancing a home loan can be affected too by unpaid medical bills—or the appearance of unpaid medical bills.

Iraq veteran Steve Barnes and his wife, Tara, were refinancing their home through a VA program when they found out from their mortgage banker that nearly \$600 in unpaid medical bills had brought down their credit scores. It means they'll have to pay an extra \$1,700 in additional fees to the lender to get the lowest interest rate.

Bills for treatment last fall related to his wife's cancer had been turned over to a collection agency while Barnes was still talking with his insurance company about what would be covered, he said.

"We pay our bills," said Barnes, 33, the postmaster in Nocona, Texas. "As soon as they were brought to our attention, we paid them." But the collection could stay on their credit reports for seven years, even though it's now paid.

Debt collectors support the legislation in the House, according to ACA International, a trade association. A key foe of an earlier bill was another

group representing the nation's credit bureaus. The Consumer Data Industry Association, which hasn't taken a position on the revised bill, said that lenders need to see a consumer's patterns of behavior over time and even paid-off medical debt is relevant to whether the consumer is a good risk.

Most hospitals and physician groups use collection agencies to go after late bills after 60 or 90 days, rather than hiring more staff. It makes financial sense to share the amounts collected with an agency. "If you don't collect anything, it's worth zero," said Richard Gundling of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

Hospitals started relying on debt collectors in the 1980s, said Chicago-based health care consultant Jim Unland.

"When the numbers of uninsured started to grow significantly, hospital financial staffs had the perception they were getting overloaded" with delinquent bills, Unland said. "It became easier to turn these bills over to collection agencies."

The Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's health care law, bars tax-exempt hospitals from using "extraordinary collection actions" until it has made "reasonable efforts" to determine whether a patient qualifies for financial assistance. But it's still unclear how that will be interpreted and whether reporting late bills to a collection agency would be considered extraordinary, Unland said.

Barnes, the Texas veteran, said he and his wife have learned something: how quickly medical bills are sent to debt collectors. "It will really happen in a blink of an eye and you won't even know it."

AP



## Overdrive

## Audi A7 proves style can still be versatile

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

**A**udi has joined the growing list of automakers introducing family cars that are disguised as sporty coupes, combining fun and utility in one great package.

In Audi's case, it's the all-new A7, five-door sloped-roof vehicle with a rear hatch rather than a trunk (the hatch counts as the fifth door). But it has a really sleek look to it, nothing like what one might imagine from what essentially is a versatile crossover.

The rear hatch and the two rear passenger doors give this car considerably more utility than a coupe when it comes to loading passengers or cargo.

Among other current offerings in this new vehicle class are premium models such as the BMW X6 and Acura ZDX, and all of these can run upwards of \$50,000, depending on how you equip them.

Our 2012 A7 3.0 TFSI quattro tester had a base price of \$59,250 (plus \$875 freight), and a final sticker of \$68,830, including freight and options.

There are some more-affordable entries in this sporty-coupe-turned-crossover class, however, such as the Honda Crosstour and Toyota Venza, which both start under \$30,000.

Automakers with these low-slung hatchbacks are playing on the popularity of the crossover utility vehicle. But they are designing them to appeal to those of us who value styling over versatility, yet can't quite give up the versatility.

The A7 is, therefore, a sporty car that can, if necessary, carry your do-it-yourself supplies home from Lowe's or the Home Depot. It's perfect for hauling one of those new big flat-screen TVs, or even a piece of plywood.

This sleek, beautiful car has seating for just four people, but everyone rides in comfort. When the two rear captain's chairs aren't needed for passengers, their backs can be folded to open up the cargo area.

Up front, there is no indication whatsoever that this is a utility vehicle. It drives just like a sport coupe, and al-



MCT

The 2012 Audi A7 is a family car disguised as a sporty coupe — essentially a versatile crossover.

most like a sports car, with the kind of precise roadhandling that one would expect from a German-engineered luxury vehicle.

Under the hood is a 3.0-liter V-6 engine that, with its standard supercharger, cranks out 310 horsepower and 325 foot-pounds of torque (yet seems even more powerful than that). It's connected to an Audi eight-speed Tiptronic automatic transmission with manual-shift capability. (No manual transmission is available.)

Standard is Audi's quattro fulltime all-wheel-drive system, which automatically maintains traction on all road surfaces, wet or dry.

The A7 can go from zero-60 mph in just 5.4 seconds. But even though the speedometer registers as high as 180 mph, the car is electronically limited to 130 for the U.S. market (something I'm sure Audi doesn't do to its European customers).

Fuel economy is quite decent, with EPA ratings of 18 mpg city/28 highway; during our test drive, we averaged 24.4 mpg.

This car is so good-looking that it turns heads wherever it goes. Craftsmanship and quality are evident throughout, from the wraparound cockpit-like dash to the leather seats and wood interior trim.

Audi has managed to keep weight to a minimum through the use of aluminum body panels on a steel frame, which is designed to improve handling, safety and fuel economy. An integrated rear spoiler deploys at high speeds to push down the rear.

The A7 also has Audi's newest telematics/audio/navigation technology, including handwriting recognition for the nav and phone systems, for easy entry of addresses or phone numbers.

One of the coolest features is the optional Audi Connect system, included on our tester, which creates the best in-dash navigation system I've ever seen. It uses Google Earth satellite images on the nav screen instead of a map, and gives the impression that you're looking at the area in front of you from a helicopter cruising overhead and just behind.

I could imagine having this same system in the instrument panel of my airplane, so I could "see" the actual airport runway ahead of me even in the rain or clouds.

This system, which combines GPS satellite navigation technology with the Google Earth images picked up through a built-in cellular-phone data connection, shows real photos of what's around you, although it isn't in real time.

For instance, I pulled into a new fast-

food restaurant's parking lot, one that had been open only a few weeks, but the nav screen showed that it was a vacant lot. The satellite photo hadn't yet been updated. Looking at the area around my house, though, I could tell that the satellite image was only a few weeks old.

Audi says this is the first factory-installed, voice-activated Google Earth, Google Local search, and (for passengers) mobile Wi-Fi system. It's also available in the 2012 Audi A6 sedan.

On our tester, the system was part of the Prestige package (\$6,330), which also brought such features as the S-line exterior treatment, 19-inch wheels with all-season tires, front- and rear-parking assist with rearview camera, smart key with pushbutton start, four-zone automatic climate control, ventilated front seats, a Bose premium surround-sound audio system with HD radio, adaptive headlights, power tilt-and-slide steering column, ambient interior lighting, and a seven-inch color driver-information center.

Our vehicle also came with LED headlights (\$1,400) and Audi Side Assist (\$500), which warns when there is a vehicle in the adjacent lane on either side. This is the best of these blind-spot warning systems I've seen yet because it has a row of warning lights built into

shakes the car and may stall the engine. If this happens, quickly depress the pedal and try again.

Listen to and feel this blending action so you can ultimately engage the clutch fairly quickly, but smoothly. Try to minimize pedal-pressed time at stoplights by idling pedal-up, in neu-

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

**The package:** Midsize, four-passenger, five-door, all-wheel-drive, supercharged V-6-powered, premium crossover utility vehicle.

**Highlights:** New to the Audi lineup for 2012, the A7 is one of a new breed of crossover that combines coupe styling with hatchback utility. It's loaded with standard and optional premium features, has a powerful engine (zero-60 mph in 5.4 seconds), and drives like a sport coupe.

**Negatives:** Pricy, with or without options, and comes only in a single trim.

**Engine:** 3.0-liter V-6, supercharged.

**Transmission:** Eight-speed automatic.

**Power/torque:** 310 HP/325 foot-pounds.

**Brakes, front/rear:** Disc/disc, antilock.

**Length:** 195.6 inches.

**Curb weight:** 4,210 pounds.

**Cargo volume:** 24.5 cubic feet (behind rear seat).

**EPA fuel economy:** 18 mpg city/28 highway/22 combined.

**Fuel capacity/type:** 19.8 gallons, unleaded premium.

**Base price:** \$59,250 plus \$875 freight.

**Price as tested:** \$68,830, with freight and options (including \$6,330 Prestige package).

**Major competitors:** BMW X6, Acura ZDX.

**On the Road rating:** 9.3 (of a possible 10).

Prices shown are manufacturer's suggested retail; actual selling price may vary.

the side of each outside mirror, and they start flashing with a bright strobe-like warning if you put on your turn signal as though you're going to move into a lane that is already occupied.

The rear hatch opens and closes automatically at the touch of a button on the remote or the driver's door (there is also a button to close it on the door itself), there are standard xenon headlights with LED daytime running lights, and frameless side windows to give the car a coupe look.

Also standard are a power sunroof, Sirius satellite radio, power/heated front seats with lumbar support, universal garage opener, rain-sensing wipers, and automatic headlights with light and rain sensors.

Premium and sport packages offer 19- and 20-inch wheels, a sport suspension and a three-spoke sport steering wheel with shift paddles.

**QUESTION: My daughter just bought her first car and it has a clutch. I've driven these quite a while back and will be teaching her how to do it but wondered if you might have some advice so she'll do it correctly.—Alicia O.**

**ANSWER:** OK, let's see what we can do to make this a fun time for both of you. A manual transmission clutch consists of four parts, plus the operating mechanism. First is the flywheel, a large, heavy disc attached to the back end of the engine's crankshaft. The clutch plate is a slender disc containing very tough friction material on each of its sides and is connected to the transmission at its center hub. The clutch cover, bolted to the flywheel, also called a pressure plate, completes this sandwich, clamping the clutch disc very tightly between itself and the flywheel. The final part is the throw-out bearing. This part, commanded by the clutch pedal, pushes against the clutch

cover, causing it to relax its grip of the clutch disc.

A clutch is needed to allow the engine (spinning) to be released from the transmission (not spinning) when the car is stopped and as gear shifts occur. A vehicle can also idle at a stop light, transmission in neutral, clutch

under \$1,000 to well over that.

In addition to your teaching, may I provide the following suggestion on taking off from a stop: If something bad happens, mash the clutch pedal down and try again.

Learn to focus specifically where the engaging or grabbing action takes

## Tips on learning to drive a clutch

By BRAD BERGHOLDT  
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

engaged—that is, clutch pedal not pressed—as the transmission provides the slippage.

Clutches wear with use, just like the soles of a shoe—the less slipping and scuffing, the better. Lifespan may vary from 25,000 miles, with improper use or lots of hill starts, to perhaps 100,000 miles or more under gentler conditions. Replacement cost can range from just

place as the pedal is released. This is usually about one-third of the way up, and it all happens within an inch or so of pedal travel. Listen to the engine's happiness as you blend a small amount of throttle with just the right release rate. Too much throttle or a slow release slips the clutch badly, eliciting a flaring engine sound. Too little throttle or too quick a release

tral, until you see the opposing traffic signal turn yellow. This spares wear and tear on the throw-out bearing.

When in stop-and-go traffic or when creeping along, follow these steps: Release the pedal fully, launch the car, fully depress and coast for bit, then repeat. Don't ride the clutch, and make sure your foot is completely off the pedal unless you are releasing the

clutch. It's OK to hover your foot just above the pedal in stop-and-go traffic.

Starting on hills is the most intimidating part of driving a clutch. If you have a hand-lever parking brake, practice applying and releasing the lever while continuously holding down the thumb button. During a challenging hill start, apply lots of parking brake, thumb down, and release it gradually, along with the clutch. This will help minimize roll-back and takes some of the strain off you and the clutch to get rolling.

Limited space allows one final suggestion: when downshifting, a tiny blip of the throttle, just before and during the shift, sweetens the shift and reduces transmission synchronizer wear.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.*



# Life & Style

## YouTube phenomenon has girls asking: Am I pretty?

By **LEANNE ITALIE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The young girl shows off her big, comfy koala hat and forms playful hearts with her fingers as she drops the question on YouTube: “Am I pretty or ugly?”

“A lot of people call me ugly, and I think I am ugly. I think I’m ugly, and fat,” she confesses in a tiny voice as she invites the world to decide.

And the world did.

The video, posted Dec. 17, 2010, has more than 4 million views and more than 107,000 anonymous, often hateful responses in a troubling phenomenon that has girls as young as 10—and some boys—asking the same question on YouTube with similar results.

Some experts in child psychology and online safety wonder whether the videos, with anywhere from 300 to 1,000 posted, represent a new wave of distress rather than simple self-questioning or pleas for affirmation or attention.

How could the creators not anticipate the nasty responses, even the tender tweens uploading videos in violation of YouTube’s 13-and-over age policy? Their directness, playful but steadfast, grips even those accustomed to life’s open Internet channel, where revolutions and executions play out alongside the ramblings of anybody with digital access.

Commenters on YouTube curse and declare the young

video creators “attention whores,” ask for sex and to see them naked. They wonder where their parents are and call them “fugly” and worse.

“Y do you live, and kids in africa die?” one responder tells the girl in the koala hat who uses the name Kendal and lists her age as 15 in her YouTube profile, though her demeanor suggests she was far younger at the time.

Another commenter posts: “You need a hug.. around your neck.. with a rope..”

Some offer support and beg Kendal and the other young faces to take down their “Am I Pretty?” and “Am I Ugly?” videos and feel good about themselves instead.

Much has been made of cyberbullying and pedophiles who cruise the Internet, and of low self-esteem among pre-adolescents and adolescents, especially girls, as their brains continue to develop.

There have been similar “hot or not” memes in the past, but as more young people live their lives online, they’re clearly more aware of the potential for negative consequences.

“Negative feedback that is personal is rarely easy to hear at any age, but to tweens and teens who value as well as incorporate feedback into their own sense of worth, it can be devastating,” said Elizabeth Dowdell, a nursing professor at Villanova University in suburban Philadelphia. She has researched child Internet safety and risk behavior in adolescents in partnership with



This image made on Friday, March 2, 2012 from video posted on the YouTube website on Dec. 17, 2010 shows a girl with a koala hat asking “Am I pretty or ugly?”

the Justice Department.

In another video posted by Kendal, she offers to “do two dares” on camera, inviting her open-channel audience to come up with some as she holds a little white stuffed monkey.

In heavy eye makeup and neon orange nail polish, a girl who calls herself Faye not only asks the pretty/ugly question but tells in other videos of being bullied at school, suffering migraines that have sent her to the hospital and coping with the divorce of her parents.

“My friends tell me that I’m pretty,” she says. “It doesn’t seem like I’m pretty, though, because, I don’t know, it just doesn’t, because people at school, they’re like, ‘Faye you’re not pretty at all.’”

She narrates a slideshow of still close-ups of herself to make the judging easier (she’s had more than 112,000 views) and joins other girls who have posted videos on another theme, “My Perfect Imperfection,” that have them noting what they hate and love about the way they look.

“I just don’t like my body at all,” says Faye as she pulls up her sweat shirt to bare her midriff.

Faye’s profile lists her age as 13. Tracked down in suburban Denver, her mom, Naomi Gibson, told ABC’s “Good Morning America” she knew nothing of the video until reporters started to call. “I was floored,” she said.

Faye told ABC she has been called names and gossiped

about behind her back.

“Deep down inside, all girls know that other people’s opinions don’t matter,” she said. “But we still go to other people for help because we don’t believe what people say.”

A third girl who uploaded one of the pretty/ugly videos in September attempts a few model poses in childlike pedal pushers and a long, multicolored T-shirt after posing the question. She takes down her ponytail and brushes her hair as she stares into the camera.

“If you guys are wondering, I am 11,” she offers. Her video has been viewed more than 6,000 times.

“COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR PARENTS AND CLEAN YOUR ROOM!!! BUT TAKE THIS TERRIBLE VIDEO DOWN YOU ARE A CHILD AND SHOULD NOT HAVE THIS KIND OF ACCESS TO THE INTERNET,” one commenter screams.

None of the three girls responded to private messages on YouTube seeking comment from The Associated Press. Gibson told ABC she was considering revoking her daughter’s YouTube privileges, but stopped short of demanding that Faye take down the video.

“Hopefully it will open up the eyes of the parents,” Gibson said. “The kids aren’t letting their parents know what’s wrong, just like Faye didn’t let me know.”

YouTube would not comment directly about the “Am I Pretty?” controversy, but it issued a statement advising

parents to visit the site’s safety center for tips on how to protect their kids online.

The site’s posting policy prohibits videos and comments “containing harassment, threats or hate speech” and encourages users to flag such material for review, the statement said.

Emilie Zaslow, a media studies professor at Pace University in New York, said today’s online world for young people is only just beginning to be understood by researchers.

When the Internet is your diary and your audience is global, she said, “The public posting of questions such as ‘Am I ugly?’ which might previously have been personal makes sense within this shift in culture.”

Add to that the unattainable pressures of the beauty industry, a dose of reality TV, where ordinary people can be famous, and superstars who are discovered via viral video on YouTube, she said.

“These videos could be read as a new form of self-mutilation in line with cutting and eating disorders,” Zaslow said.

That potential is real, added Nadine Kaslow, a family psychologist and professor of behavioral sciences at Emory University in Atlanta.

“There’s this constant messaging about looks and beauty,” she said. “Their world is taking it to a new level. It can be humiliating, there may be a lot of shame, and you start to become public objects instead of being your own person.”

## Pitt, Clooney, Sheen headline marriage rights play

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Martin Sheen commanded the stage with his impassioned portrayal of an attorney arguing for gay-marriage rights; Jane Lynch inspired instant response as a vehement same-sex marriage opponent; Brad Pitt dazzled as a judge.

It was all part of the star-studded West Coast premiere of “8,” a play about the 2010 federal court fight against Proposition 8, the gay-marriage ban that California voters approved in 2008.

The performance Saturday at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles also featured George Clooney, Kevin Bacon, Jamie Lee Curtis, Christine Lahti, George Takei, John C. Reilly, Chris Colfer, Matthew Morrison and Jesse Tyler Ferguson.

The play by Oscar winner Dustin Lance Black made its Broadway debut last year in similar starry fashion. Saturday’s benefit performance

was broadcast live on YouTube, where director Rob Reiner said it drew 200,000 viewers. He hopes it attracts more than a million before its weeklong online run ends. The play will also be staged around the country with local actors at colleges and community theaters.

“We want as many people as possible to see what happened inside that courtroom,” said Reiner, a founding member of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which is funding the federal fight for marriage equality.

Relying largely on transcripts from court proceedings, “8” introduces viewers to the couples who challenged the California initiative, the attorneys who argued their case and a bumbling witness who spoke out against them.

One couple has two children together; the other wants to start a family; and a witness testifying in favor of the same-sex marriage ban said under



From left to right, actress Yeardley Smith, actor George Clooney, and actor Martin Sheen take a bow during the curtain call at the Los Angeles premiere of the play “8” in Los Angeles on Saturday, March 3, 2012.

oath that marriage equality was best for couples, kids and the country.

The real-life couples in the case—Sandy Stier (Curtis) and

Kris Perry (Lahti), and Jeff Zarillo (Matt Bomer) and Paul Katami (Morrison)—and the attorneys—David Boies (Clooney) and Theodore B. Olson

(Sheen)—were in the audience Saturday, along with director Brett Ratner, designer Diane Von Furstenberg and Clooney’s girlfriend, Stacy Keibler.

“We did put fear and prejudice on trial, and fear and prejudice lost,” Olson said after Reiner brought him on stage.

Last month, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld an earlier judge’s decision that found California’s proposed amendment banning same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

Reiner said he and Black decided to make a play and eventually a movie based on the Prop. 8 trial after proponents successfully petitioned to block cameras from the courtroom.

Saturday’s reading was held on a courtroom-like set, with eight chairs on each side and Pitt’s judge’s box in the center. Sheen and Clooney made for an impressive legal team, while Reilly cracked up the crowd as a verbose marriage expert.

“I knew that Martin Sheen was going to get a huge ova-

tion after that speech because we applauded for him in rehearsal,” said Ferguson, adding that he wanted to be in “8” as soon as he heard about it. “John C. Reilly did a brilliant job with his role but I loved seeing Jane Lynch play such a villainous, homophobic creature. It really felt like she was sticking it to the man.”

Reilly said he was moved by the material, and even more so by its message.

“I think America will be a better place and we can hold our chins up a little higher in this country when everyone is treated (equally),” he said. “These aren’t gay rights or special rights, they’re basic rights that people who love each other should have.”

Reilly was thrilled to participate in the play, and even took on a last-minute role change when Pitt signed on. Reilly was to play the judge, but instead jumped into a role that Reiner originally was going to play.

Said the director: “I took one for the team.”



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#### Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift  
Children's/Family • Rated PG

#### Synopsis

Dr. Seuss' heaviest environmentally themed tale gets adapted for young filmgoers with this computer-animated 3-D feature from Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment.



#### Project X

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Thomas Mann, Jonathan Brown  
Comedy • Rated R

#### Synopsis

The Hangover's Todd Phillips produces this top-secret comedy from writers Matt Drake and Michael Bacall, with helming duties handled by commercial director Nima Nourizadeh.



#### Act of Valor

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez  
Adventure, Action • Rated R



#### Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido  
Action • Rated PG 13



#### This Means War

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine  
Comedy • Rated PG 13



#### Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

The Rock, Vanessa Hudgens, Michael Caine  
Adventure • Rated PG



#### Gone

Friday		7:30		
Saturday	1:30	7:30		
Sunday	1:30	7:30		
Monday thru Thursday		7:30		

Amanda Seyfried, Sebastian Stan  
Suspense, Thriller • Rated PG 13



#### Safe House

Friday		4:30	9:50	
Saturday		4:30	9:50	
Sunday		4:30		
Monday thru Thursday		4:30		

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds  
Spy film, Thriller • Rated R

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## Gored Spanish bullfighter makes comeback

**OLIVENZA, Spain (AP)**—A Spanish bullfighter who lost sight in one eye and has partial facial paralysis after a terrifying goring returned to the bullring Sunday, five months after his injury.

On Oct. 8, a bull's horn ripped into Juan Jose Padilla's lower jaw and caused his left eyeball to protrude as spectators screamed in horror. Padilla was seen getting up shouting, "I can't see, I can't see anything," his face gushing blood as assistants distracted the bull.

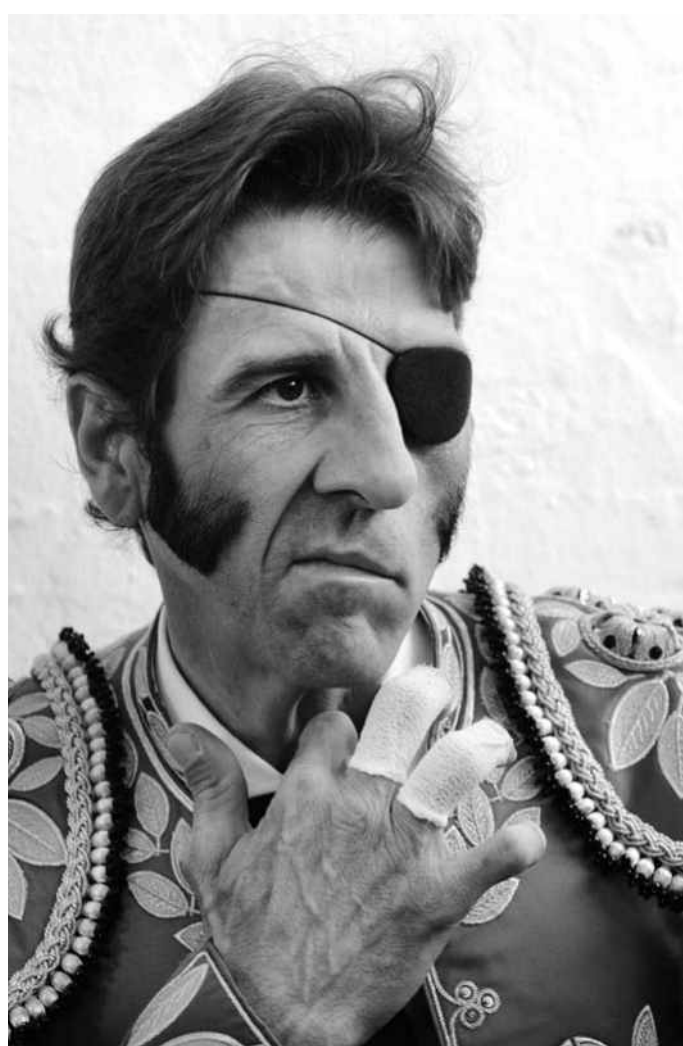
Now, wearing an eye patch and speaking with a lisp, Padilla fulfilled what he describes as an unquenchable desire to once again face massive 1,100-pound (500-kilogram) fighting bulls with the aid of only a cape and sword.

The 38-year-old Padilla, the star attraction at the southwestern town of Olivenza's annual taurine festival, said he was returning to the ring because of a need "to win, to triumph, to be a better man."

A capacity crowd of about 5,400 people, including die-hard connoisseurs, fashion models and well-known personalities, had packed into this town's historic bullring, which was built in 1854.

The matador, who is also known by his professional name of "the Cyclone of Jerez," wore a glittering matador's "suit of lights" outfit that had been made for the occasion in gold braid and olive green, "for hope," according to his tailor, Justo Algaba. Stitching on the suit traced the shape of laurel leaves because "they were used to crown the brows of audacious combatants and great heroes," Algaba said.

Padilla was greeted with loud



Spanish bullfighter Juan Jose Padilla adjusts his tie before a bullfight at the southwestern Spanish town of Olivenza, Sunday, March 4, 2012.

cheers and enthusiastic hand-clapping as he walked into the ring to the traditional "pasodoble" brass band music, before having two unaccompanied flamenco style "saeta" songs dedicated to him, an honor rarely accorded to bullfighters.

Despite lacking the two-eyed stereoscopic vision that allows people to judge distances and the speed of approaching objects accurately, Padilla had little trouble killing his first bull before dedicating the second beast to his tearful father, who embraced his son after the kill. Padilla was awarded one ear for each of his two kills. The maximum accolade a matador can achieve is two ears and a tail for each bull slain.

"He's been looking forward so much to starting this new phase in his life," his manager, Diego Robles, said.

After slaying his final bull, Padilla was carried out of the ring among jubilant crowd scenes on the shoulders of fellow bullfighters who had shared the billing with him, a very rare salute.

Celebrations commemorating Padilla's successful return were expected to last well into the night in the rural town.

## Celebrity burglary suspect takes plea deal

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A man accused of leading a series of burglaries at the Hollywood Hills homes of celebrities pleaded no contest to stealing from Lindsay Lohan and reality star Audrina Patridge.

Nicholas Frank Prugo spoke softly as he entered the pleas under a deal that includes two years in state prison and requires him to testify against three remaining defendants charged with breaking into the home of

Paris Hilton and Lohan.

Prugo and others were accused of break-ins that netted more than \$3 million in jewelry, high-end clothes, art and other goods. Most of the property has never been recovered.

Prugo, 21, was initially charged with burglarizing the homes of Hilton, Orlando Bloom and Rachel Bilson, but those counts were dropped in exchange for his plea. He will be responsible for restitution awards stemming from the

break-ins, prosecutor Christine Kee said.

"Nick is doing the right thing," his attorney Markus Mueller-Dombois said after the hearing.

Prugo could face serious penalties if he does not testify, including more than seven years in state prison. He will also be considered a two-strike felon after sentencing, which could bring lengthy prison time if he commits another felony.

Prugo pleaded no contest to two counts of felony residential burglary and was set for sentencing May 4 or after the cases against the remaining defendants have concluded.

Neither Lohan or Patridge, a star of MTV series "The Hills," attended Friday's hearing.

Two others charged in the case, Rachel Lee and Alexis Neiers, also accepted plea deals. Prugo said Lee helped plan the break-ins. She was sentenced to four years in state prison after pleading no contest to burglarizing Patridge's home.

The plea deals have spared the stars from testifying at trials about the break-ins. However, several appeared before a grand jury in 2010.

"It wasn't about the things that were taken, it was just the fact that someone came into the only private space that I have in my life at this point," Lohan told the panel.



Prugo

## 'Lorax' cleans up at box office with \$70.7M debut

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—"Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" raked in all kinds of green, earning \$70.7 million in its first weekend to score the biggest box-office debut of the year by far.

The 3-D animated family film from Universal Pictures, featuring the voices of Danny DeVito, Zac Efron and Taylor Swift, is based on Seuss' cautionary fable about the importance of preserving the environment. Of its opening haul, \$5.4 million, or 8 percent, came from IMAX screens, which is on the high side for a family film.

Coming in second place with a strong debut of its own was the R-rated "Project X," about a trio of high school misfits who throw a raging party in hopes of becoming popular. The Warner Bros. comedy made about \$20.8 million, according to Sunday studio estimates.

"The Lorax" comes from the makers of "Despicable Me,"—Illumination Entertainment, led by producer Christopher Meledandri—and director Chris

1. "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax," \$70.7 million (\$500,000 international).
2. "Project X," \$20.8 million (\$1.7 million international).
3. "Act of Valor," \$13.7 million.
4. "Safe House," \$7.2 million (\$10.8 million international).
5. "Tyler Perry's Good Deeds," \$7 million.
6. "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island," \$6.9 million (\$14.7 million international).
7. "The Vow," \$6.1 million (\$4.1 million international).
8. "This Means War," \$5.6 million (\$14.1 million international).
9. "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance," \$4.7 million (\$6 million international).
10. "The Artist," \$3.9 million (\$5.3 million international).

Renaud. It actually had a bigger opening than that film, which debuted with \$56.4 million in July 2010. It also scored the biggest opening for a Dr. Seuss adaptation, topping the \$55.1 million that "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" made in 2000.

Before this, "The Vow" had the best debut of 2012 with \$41.2 million.

Last week's No. 1 movie, "Act of Valor," dropped to third place with \$13.7 million. The action picture from Relativity Media, which stars real, active-duty U.S. Navy SEALs, has

made over \$45.2 million total.

This year's best-picture winner at the Academy Awards, the silent, black-and-white "The Artist," got a 34 percent bump from its victory last weekend. The Weinstein Co. film made \$3.9 million to come in 10th place and now has grossed over \$37 million total.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.



# Mariah Carey returns to stage since giving birth

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Mariah Carey made her return to the stage since giving birth to twins in diva-like form: She changed her shoes after singing two songs and touched up her hair and makeup in a sleek, sleeveless black dress, all in front of an eager audience.

Carey, who gave birth to fraternal twins via C-section in April, performed for a few hundred fans Thursday night at

New York's Gotham Hall.

Of her return she said: "I didn't realize this was a big deal."

The Grammy winner sang a number of her hits during the short performance, from "Hero" to "We Belong Together" to the Jackson 5 cover "I'll Be There."

The concert was one of four shows Thursday dubbed "Plot Your Escape: Four Concerts. Countless Celebrities. 1 Epic

Night," by Caesars Entertainment. Diddy was Carey's opening act in New York, while Lil Wayne and Cee Lo performed in Los Angeles, Maroon 5 and Sara Bareilles in Chicago, and Mary J. Blige and Gavin DeGraw in New Orleans. The concerts were part of Caesars Entertainment's rewards program.

The shows happened simultaneously and were streamed online.

"We can't do anything without it being documented," Carey told the audience. "Doesn't it freak you out at all?"

Carey said if her son Moroccan was onstage, he would probably beat-box, and that her daughter Monroe would be a diva.

The multiplatinum performer thanked her fans for being there and joked: "Catch me at my real show next time."

## Rock guitarist Montrose dies

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Rock guitarist Ronnie Montrose, who formed the band that bore his name and performed with some of rock's heavy hitters, has died.

His booking agent, Jim Douglas, says Montrose died Saturday at his home in Millbrae, California. He was 64.

Douglas says Montrose had been in declining health for some time, battling prostate cancer and what Douglas termed "personal demons."



Montrose

In addition to forming his own band in 1973, Montrose performed with a number of musicians, including Sammy Hagar, Herbie Hancock, Van Morrison, Boz Scaggs and the Edgar Winter Group. Douglas says Montrose was working on releasing a DVD and starting a tour that would have taken him across the U.S.

Montrose is survived by his wife, Leighsa, as well as a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

## Pippa Middleton completes 56-mile Swedish ski race



**MORA, Sweden (AP)**—Pippa Middleton has completed a 56-mile cross-country ski marathon in Sweden—taking a respectable 412th place in the women's category.

The sister of the Duchess of Cambridge—the former Kate Middleton—finished the Vasaloppet ski race in 7 hours, 13:36 minutes, alongside 15,800 competitors in bright sunshine.

Middleton told Swedish broadcaster SVT she had only prepared for the race for "a couple of weekends" and admitted it was tiring.

Pippa and her brother James, who clocked 06:47:27, raced to raise money for children's charity Magic Breakfast.

The competition is one of the world's oldest cross-country races and is based on Gustav Vasa's attempt to gather peasants for a revolt against occupying Danes in 1522.

The winner finished in 3 hours, 38.41 minutes.

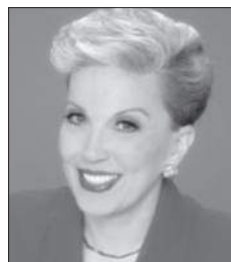
Britain's Pippa Middleton, center, sister of Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, comes in to reach the finish line of the 88th Vasaloppet cross country ski marathon in Mora, Sweden, Sunday March 4, 2012.

## Intrusive question diminishes expectant mom's joyful news

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I are in our 30s and have been happily married for almost six years. After two years of trying, we're finally expecting our first child.

The problem is, how do we handle questions as to whether or not we conceived naturally? I am appalled by people we hardly know asking if we did in vitro fertilization.



Dear Abby

As a matter of fact, we DID conceive using IVF, after having tried numerous other options. We don't see anything wrong with it nor are we ashamed. But I don't think it is anyone else's business. Please help me respond properly without seeming as rude as those who ask.

INTRUDED ON IN DALLAS

**DEAR INTRUDED ON:** Handle it by saying, "That is a very personal question and I'd rather not discuss it." That an acquaintance would have such little respect for boundaries to ask this question is appalling, I agree.

**DEAR ABBY:** My mother retired and since I have a degree and background in finance, she asked me to help her get her finances in order. She held low-paying jobs most of her working life, so I was pleasantly surprised to find she had amassed a substantial amount of money in her retirement and other accounts.

Together, Mom and I developed a budget that will not only pay her bills, but will also give her a certain amount of spending money each month while still allowing her savings to grow. Despite my assurances, she still won't treat herself to dinners out or go on nice vacations even though she says she'd like to do those things. How can I convince her that she deserves those things and she has the money now to enjoy them?

WANTS THE BEST FOR MOM IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR WANTS THE BEST FOR MOM:** Recognize that the habits of a lifetime can be difficult to break. Your mother might be more open to dinners out if you go together. As to the vacations, do some research for her online or talk to a travel agent and get some brochures for vacation spots you think she might enjoy. It doesn't have to be fancy or exotic—the greatest adventure can start with baby steps. Be patient and you may find she becomes receptive.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm one of four guys who go on a men's golf trip every year. There's no infidelity—just three days of golf and fine dining.

I no longer want to go because I'm tired of being the big brother, the referee and the designated driver while the others get drunk and obnoxious and are oblivious to others around us. I am also a physician who treats them and their families in my medical practice. How do I get out of this mess? I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

THE ODD MAN OUT

**DEAR ODD MAN OUT:** An effective way to manage it would be to tell them that the dates they have selected for the golf trip "don't work" for you. You don't have to be specific about why—it could be a family obligation or something related to your practice that makes you unavailable.

**HOWEVER,** as their physician, if you know these patients drink to such excess that they become obnoxious, oblivious and a danger behind the wheel, it would be in their interests to talk to them about it during their medical exam because they're a danger to themselves and others.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

## Singer Cee Lo Green announces Las Vegas residency

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—The singer-songwriter behind the Grammy-winning 2010 single "Forget You" and the 2006 hit "Crazy" is settling down—at least for a few months—in a Las Vegas residency.

Cee Lo Green says his semi-permanent show, "Lobrance," will launch Aug. 29 at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip, and run at least through the end of the year.

"The production will combine Cee Lo's flamboyant sense of style and over-the-top creativity," producers said in a statement, adding that the show "will be as inspired and visually



Cee Lo Green performs with the Jubilee! showgirls during the Caesars Entertainment "Escape To Total Rewards" concert in Los Angeles, Thursday, March 1, 2012.

alive as Cee Lo Green."

Organizers say the show will include a musical journey

through time, with tributes to Prince and the Rolling Stones. "Mind-twisting magic and sexi-

fied showgirls" are also on tap.

The 37-year-old Green, known for his soulful voice and extravagant costumes, is a coach on the NBC show "The Voice." His break came in the mid-1990s in the southern rap scene, but has evolved to include Gnarlz Barkley, a collaboration between him and DJ-producer Danger Mouse, and his 2010 solo album "The Lady Killer."

The 28 shows through the end of December are scheduled for late nights, and some follow Planet Hollywood's "Peepshow" production in the 1,400-seat theater.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Rapper denounces shooting at Arizona nightclub

**TEMPE, Arizona (AP)**—A rapper who was to perform at an Arizona nightclub until a gun-battle erupted outside says his thoughts go out to the 14 people wounded in the shootout. Rapper Nipsey Hussle issued a statement this weekend saying he strongly opposes gun violence and that his fans know he represents "nothing but peace and progress through hard work." He says his "deep-

est thoughts and sympathies" go out to the victims and their families. Meanwhile, the search continued Sunday for two suspects in Friday night's shooting outside The Clubhouse Music Venue in Tempe. Authorities say at least 250 people were outside the venue when three men began arguing and opened fire at one another. Police arrested one of them later that night. Investigators say all three men are affiliated with Phoenix-area gangs. All

14 people wounded are expected to survive.

### Calif. sheriff's actress wife adds to trial drama

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Jury selection is scheduled to get under way Monday in the domestic violence trial of embattled San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, who faces misdemeanor charges for allegedly grabbing and bruising the arm of his wife, actress Eliana Lopez. The case has attracted in-

ternational attention, with Lopez, a former Latin American telenovela star, also denying the allegations against her husband. Less than two years after moving to the United States, Lopez blogged about her aspirations for her new, simpler life as a wife and mother, far from the bright lights. Now, she is back in the spotlight as an alleged domestic violence victim in the incident involving her husband at their home on New Year's Eve. Mirkarimi has pleaded not guilty.







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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC. ) CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0137  
Plaintiff, )  
-v- ) **NOTICE OF SALE**

RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN )  
Defendant. )

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on January 26, 2012, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Rafael S. Demapan in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

**LOT NO. 045 A 75**, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 003, the original of which was recorded on April 26, 1983 as Document No. 90-1671 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on March 26, 2012, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Inspection of Property.** It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

**Warranties and Covenants.** All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

**Enforcement of Auction Sale.**

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

**Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 29 day of February, 2012.

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

GUIYA J. TUDELA  
P.O. Box 502592  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No. 789-9162, 287-0508

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter )  
Of The Petition To ) FCD GU CIVIL  
Appoint General ) ACTION  
Guardianship For: ) NO. 12-0081

HAN JIANG )  
Minor Child, )  
By: ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

GUIYA J. TUDELA )  
Petitioner. )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 15, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2012.

Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Burger and Comer, P.C.**  
Job Title: Audit Supervisor (Full Time)  
Salary Range: \$7.50 to \$20.00 per hour  
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**Job Description**  
Oversees audit planning, fieldwork, and audit reporting; prepares reports, and communicates findings and recommendations to line and senior management and update audit manager. Conduct and participates in financial audit, compliance audit and business improvement audits for private companies and government entities. Review audit work papers prepared by the audit staff to ensure that supporting work papers are accurate and complete. Responsible for daily supervision of audit staff and responsible for the development of audit staff and the completion of performance evaluations. Research pertinent rules, regulations and statutes which impact upon the subject matter of the audit.

**Qualification**  
College Graduate with degree in Accounting and excellent analytical, decision making, problem solving, interpersonal, time management and research skills are required. Possession of Certified Public Accountant Certificate recognized by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant, 3 years work experience as an accountant or auditor, knowledge of CNMI, Guam and US Federal Taxes, knowledge of GAAP and GAAS are preferred.

**Worksite Location:** Will be assign in Saipan office but need to work in Guam from time to time.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Kobe scores 33, Lakers beat Wade's Heat



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 33 points in his third straight stellar performance since Dwyane Wade broke his nose in the All-Star game, and Wade managed just 16 points before fouling out midway through the fourth quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' 93-83 victory over the Miami Heat on Sunday.

Metta World Peace scored 17 points while leading a solid defensive effort for the Lakers, who have won 17 of their last 18 home games. Andrew Bynum had 16 points and 13 rebounds as Los Angeles never trailed in the final 44 minutes against Miami, snapping a four-game skid in Bryant's head-to-head matchups with Wade's Heat.

LeBron James had 25 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Heat, who lost on the final two stops of their three-game trip after nine consecutive victories. Only Mike Miller's jumper with 21.4 seconds left saved Miami from its lowest-scoring performance of the season.

Just one week after Wade gave Bryant a concussion with a hard foul in the All-Star game, Bryant scored 18 points in a dynamic first quarter while wearing a clear plastic mask over his still-tender nose. He added just enough big baskets in the second half to keep the Lakers ahead, finishing with his third straight 30-point game as the Masked Mamba.

Wade scored 16 points on 7-for-17 shooting before fouling out with 5:14 to play, committing three fouls in rapid succession for an early end to a rough day. Wade and James were both out of sync, as evidenced by their combined 2-for-5 performance at the free-throw line.

Pau Gasol had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who have won eight of 10 to challenge the Clippers atop the Pacific Division.

Mario Chalmers scored 15 for the Heat, who played their third straight game without Chris

Bosh after the All-Star forward attended his grandmother's funeral on Saturday. Miami beat the Lakers in their first meeting of the season six weeks ago even with James battling the flu and Wade sitting out with a sprained ankle.

Although the Staples Center crowd roundly booed Wade during pregame introductions and the first few times he touched the ball, Wade apologized profusely after the All-Star game to Bryant, his fellow U.S. Olympian. Bryant insisted he bore no grudge, saying Wade would never injure him on purpose.

Bryant then played the first quarter with a fire that sure appeared to be motivated by something even bigger than an elite opponent and a national television audience.

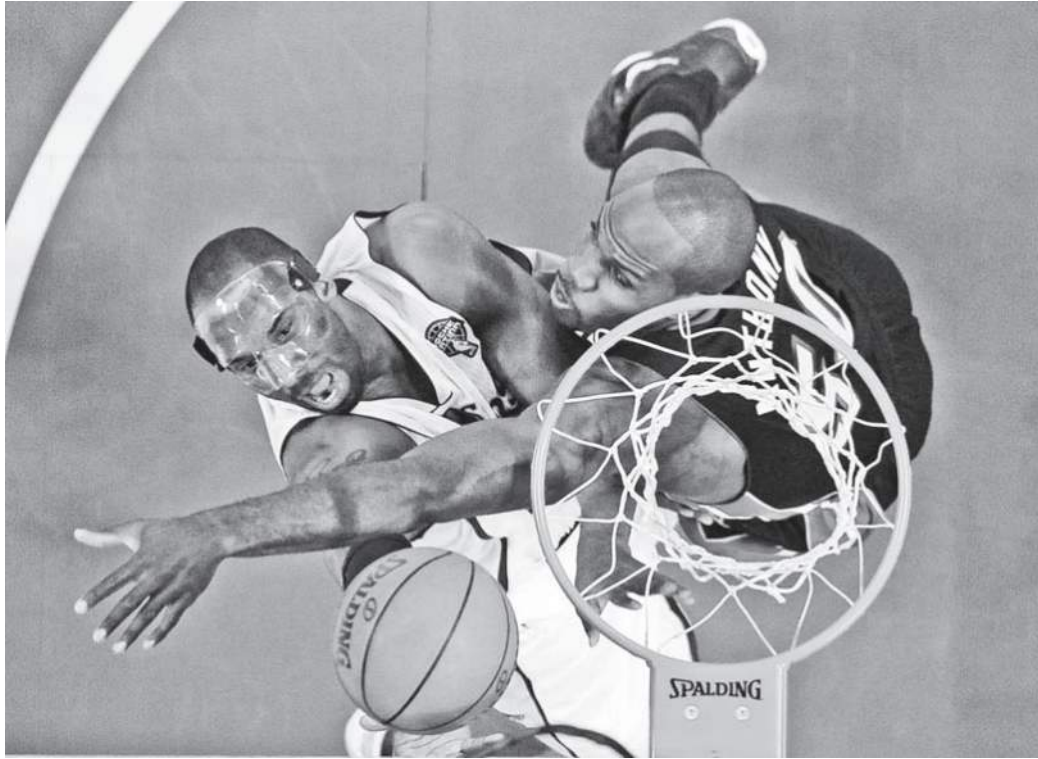
Driving to the hoop and hitting fallaway jumpers with equal grace, Bryant went 8 for 10 and earned a handful of standing ovations while leading Los Angeles to a 10-point lead.

Bryant didn't make a shot in the second quarter, but the Lakers expanded their lead with Bynum's stellar inside play and help from rookie Andrew Goudelock, who made two 3-pointers, and World Peace, who scored eight points and played solid defense on James.

James made just one shot in the second and Los Angeles led 50-38 at the break. The Heat surpassed their lowest-scoring half of the season by just one point after making only three shots in the final 7:46.

Miami controlled the third quarter behind James, who guarded everybody from Gasol to point guard Steve Blake depending on the Heat's needs. But when James slightly shoved Troy Murphy in frustration after missing a layup at the third-quarter buzzer, Gasol stepped in to challenge James, earning matching technical fouls before officials and World Peace restored order.

Los Angeles nursed its lead through the final period, and the Staples Center crowd gave



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, left, shoots against Miami Heat center Joel Anthony during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 4, 2012, in Los Angeles.

a standing ovation after Wade committed three fouls in less than three minutes. He picked up his sixth when he foolishly tried to reach over the 7-foot Bynum's back to stop an alley-oop pass.

James appeared to injure his left foot with 1:05 to play when he stepped out of bounds and landed awkwardly on the foot of a fan sitting courtside, but he returned to the game after a timeout.

## Nets 104, Bobcats 101

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Deron Williams scored a franchise-record 57 points to lift the New Jersey Nets to a victory over the Charlotte Bobcats.

Williams, who came into the game averaging 21.7 points, shot 16 of 29 from the field and was a perfect 21 for 21 from the free-throw line.

Williams broke the franchise's previous mark of 52 points, shared by Mike Newlin and Ray Williams. It was the second-most points scored against the Bobcats, one shy of Kobe Bryant's 58 in 2006.

Corey Maggette had 24 points and Gerald Henderson added 15

for the Bobcats, who've lost five straight and 21 of their last 22.

## Celtics 115, Knicks 111, OT

In Boston, Celtics guard Rajon Rondo had his second triple-double in three games, spoiling Jeremy Lin's return to Boston.

Rondo had 18 points, 20 assists and a career-high 17 rebounds, and Paul Pierce scored 34—including a 3-pointer with 4.9 seconds left in regulation. Kevin Garnett finished with 18 points with 10 rebounds.

Lin picked up two fouls in the first three minutes and struggled to 14 points in 32 minutes. He had five assists and four rebounds while shooting 6 for 16 from the floor.

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points for the Knicks, six of them in the final 100 seconds of regulation as they briefly took the lead. Amare Stoudemire had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

## Bulls 96, 76ers 91

In Philadelphia, Derrick Rose tied a season high with 35 points, and Joakim Noah had 11 points

and 18 rebounds to lead Chicago to its sixth straight win.

In a battle of division leaders, the Bulls made all the big shots over the final minutes to end a three-game losing streak against the Sixers.

Leading 91-89, the Bulls turned the ball over, but Andre Iguodala tossed up an air ball on a 3-point attempt. Again the Bulls turned the ball over, and this time it was Thaddeus Young who missed a jumper for the Sixers. At least his shot hit the rim.

## Raptors 83, Warriors 75

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points, and James Johnson had 12 points and 12 rebounds as Toronto beat Golden State.

Amir Johnson had 11 points and 13 rebounds, Leandro Barbosa scored 18 points and Ed Davis grabbed 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who had lost 11 of their last 14.

David Lee had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and Monta Ellis scored 20 points, but Golden State lost for the sixth time in nine games.

## Clippers 105, Rockets 103, OT

In Houston, Chris Paul had 28 points and 10 assists, and Blake Griffin added 14 points and 11 rebounds as the Los Angeles Clippers beat Houston in overtime.

Randy Foye had 15 points and Caron Butler and Mo Williams had 14 apiece for the Clippers, who beat Houston for only the eighth time in the last 33 meetings.

Kevin Martin scored 25 points, and Samuel Dalembert and Luis Scola each grabbed 12 rebounds for the Rockets, who've lost three in a row after winning their previous four.

## Suns 96, Kings 88

In Phoenix, Steve Nash had 19 points, and Marcin Gortat scored 14 and matched his season high with 17 rebounds as Phoenix earned its third consecutive victory.

In all three wins, the Suns rallied from double-digit deficits, something the franchise hadn't done since November 2002.

Marcus Thornton scored 23 and Tyreke Evans 17 for Sacramento. DeMarcus Cousins added 16 points and 14 rebounds, but the Kings shot just 33 percent in the second half to fall to 4-19 on the road.

## Nuggets 99, Spurs 94

In San Antonio, Ty Lawson had 22 points and 11 assists and sank the game-sealing jumper with 11.9 seconds left, and the injury-laden Denver Nuggets overshadowed the return of Manu Ginobili to beat the Spurs.

Still without leading scorer Danilo Gallinari and Nene, the Nuggets won their third in a row with a short-handed cast that became just the third team to beat San Antonio at home.

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 25 points. Ginobili scored eight in 24 minutes, playing his first game in two weeks after straining a stomach muscle. He missed a month earlier with a broken hand.

# Union thinks Braun test leak was isolated case



**PHOENIX** (AP)—The players' association believes the leak of NL MVP Ryan Braun's drug test was an isolated occurrence.

ESPN reported in December that Braun tested positive for elevated testosterone. Representatives of the Milwaukee outfielder argued during a grievance hearing that specified procedures for handling the sample were not followed, and arbitrator Shyam Das last month overturned the 50-game suspension Braun faced.

"Everybody associated with the case is extremely disappointed that it leaked out," union head Michael Weiner

said Sunday at the Milwaukee Brewers' training camp. "The leak was specific to this case. It does not threaten the confidentiality of the program. As I have said to players who have asked about that, confidentiality is important as any aspect of this program. The program has a bunch of different goals, but confidentiality is critical. If we felt that there was any system-wide problem with respect to confidentiality, we really would have a problem. And, that's not the case."

A day after Das issued his decision on Feb. 23, Major League Baseball executive vice president Rob Manfred said "we are convinced that the leak

did not come from the commissioner's office" and Weiner said "we are confident that it was not caused by the commissioner's office, the MLBPA or anyone associated in any way with the program."

Asked whether his side was considering any action against the person who leaked it, Weiner responded, "The union is not."

"I guess I can't speak for Ryan on that point," he said. "That'll be their decision. My sense is what's done is done."

The 12 previous players to challenge suspensions in grievances all failed to overturn the penalties. Under baseball's drug programs, the arbitrator decides grievances stemming

from a first positive test before the test result is made public.

"The idea that there is confidentiality to the appeals process is critical," Weiner said. "If we felt there was a real threat to that here, we'd have a big problem."

Braun's side argued during the hearing that the drug collector, Dino Laurenzi Jr., did not follow the procedures specified in baseball's drug agreement, which states the urine sample should be taken to a Federal Express office on the day it is collected "absent unusual circumstances."

Laurenzi collected the sample on a Saturday and did not leave it at a FedEx office until Monday. Laurenzi issued a statement

last week defending his actions, saying he did not tamper with the samples. He said his instructions were to safeguard the sample at home until a time FedEx could ship it. He also said it was his "understanding that the samples were received at the laboratory with all tamper-resistant seals intact."

Das has 30 days from his decision to give the sides his written opinion. Weiner said the parties have not addressed whether to make the decision public, adding "I think the interests of the program are served by keeping the confidentiality in place."

Braun struck out in his only two at-bats in the Brewers' 1-all tie with a split squad of the San Francisco Giants, his first game of spring training. Although Milwaukee was the home team,

about half the crowd of 6,619 cheered for the Giants and they countered the Brewers' fans standing ovation with catcalls when Braun went to the plate in the first inning and serenaded Braun with chants of "Ur-ine Sam-ple!" before Braun struck out swinging against Madison Bumgarner. His second time up, Braun was greeted with chants of "Cheater!" before looking at strike three.

Following Das' decision, Braun said he was a "victim" of a "fatally flawed" testing system and "the truth is on my side."

"Ryan said from his heart what needed to be said," Weiner said.

Weiner said the sides already have discussed changes to the drug program in the wake of Das' decision.



## Sources: Williams to meet with investigators

**NEW YORK (AP)**—NFL investigators will meet Monday with the former New Orleans Saints assistant coach who admitted and apologized for running a bounty program that rewarded players with thousand-dollar payoffs for knocking targeted opponents out of games.

The meeting with Gregg Williams will be in the New York area, according to two people familiar with the NFL's investigation of the bounties. They spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday because details of the continuing investigation are not being disclosed.

ESPN first reported the scheduled meeting between the league and Williams.

The Saints maintained a bounty pool of up to \$50,000 the last three seasons, the NFL said. Payoffs were made for inflicting game-ending injuries on targeted players, including quarterbacks Brett Favre and Kurt Warner. "Knockouts" were worth \$1,500 and "cart-offs" \$1,000, with payments doubled or tripled for the playoffs.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Sunday in an email to The Associated Press that the investigation was far from over and that the league will continue "addressing the issues raised as part of our responsibility to protect player safety and the integrity of the game."

That likely means the investigation will zero in on teams that employed Williams in the past.

Before joining the Saints, Williams was the defensive coordinator in Tennessee, Washington and Jacksonville, and the head coach of the Buffalo Bills. In January, he was hired by new St. Louis Rams coach, Jeff Fisher, to lead the defense.

"It was a terrible mistake," Williams said in a statement Friday night shortly after the NFL released the report. "And we knew it was wrong while we were doing it."

Several players around the league have said the Saints and Williams weren't the only ones with such a system. Former Redskins safety Matt Bowen said Williams had a similar bounty scheme when he was in Washington.

Former Bills safety Coy Wire told The Buffalo News on Saturday that an environment of "malicious intent" was in place when he joined the team in 2002—when Williams was the head coach. Wire said Williams promoted "financial compensation" for hits that injured opponents.

Aiello said the NFL would look at "any relevant info regarding rules being broken."

No punishments have been

handed out, but they could include suspension, fines and loss of draft picks.

Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who was suspended for two games this season for stomping on an opponent and has been fined frequently by the NFL for rough play, insisted Sunday his team had no bounty program.

"I don't take part in those things and nor do my teammates and nor my coaches. We don't allow that," Suh said. "For me, personally, and I know my teammates, we don't want to put anybody out," he added. "Especially me, I would never want anybody to target me to take me out, so why would I do it against somebody else?"

All payouts for specific performances in a game, including interceptions or causing fumbles, are against NFL rules.

The NFL also warns teams against such practices before each season.

"The payments here are particularly troubling because they involved not just payments for 'performance,' but also for injuring opposing players," Commissioner Roger Goodell said Friday in a statement. "The bounty rule promotes two key elements of NFL football: player safety and competitive integrity."

The league said 22 to 27 defensive players were involved in the program. Its findings were corroborated by multiple, independent sources, and the pool amounts peaked in 2009, the year the Saints won the Super Bowl.

One Saint fined last season for flagrant hits was safety Roman Harper. In Week 14 against Tennessee, he made two hits that drew a total of \$22,500 in fines.

Harper was fined \$15,000 for roughing the passer on a helmet-to-helmet hit, and another \$7,500 for unnecessary roughness when he pulled down receiver Damian Williams by his helmet after a long catch and run. The tackle likely stopped Williams from scoring, and Gregg Williams defended Harper's aggressiveness on that play after the game.

"If that guy doesn't want his head tore off, duck. Because that's how we're playing. He needs to duck, OK? And that is exactly what you have to do," Williams said. "One of the things about playing in this league is that your mental toughness, your physical toughness, all that kind of stuff works hand in hand. And I love Roman Harper and the way he plays, and evidently a lot of other people and players in the league do, too, because they keep on voting him to the Pro Bowl."



Rory McIlroy holds the trophy after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Sunday, March 4, 2012. McIlroy became the top-ranked golfer in the world.

## McIlroy holds off Tiger, goes to No. 1

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)**—Rory McIlroy won the Honda Classic with a performance worthy of the new No. 1 player in golf.

Right when it looked as though McIlroy had no serious challenge Sunday, Tiger Woods put some color into that red shirt with a birdie-eagle finish for a 62—his lowest final round ever—to get within one shot of the lead.

McIlroy could hear the roar from the farthest corner of PGA National, and the 22-year-old from Northern Ireland responded with some clutch golf of his own. He made an 8-foot birdie putt, and then made three clutch par saves during a daunting stretch at PGA National.

He played it safe with a two-shot lead on the par-5 18th and made par to close with a 1-under 69 and the victory he needed to replace Luke Donald atop the world ranking that will be published Monday.

"It was tough today, especially seeing Tiger make a charge," McIlroy said. "I knew par golf would probably be good enough. To shoot 1 under in these conditions, when you go into the round with the lead, is very nice. And I was just able to get the job done."

McIlroy is the 16th player to be No. 1 in the world, and the second-youngest behind Woods, who was 21 when he first went to No. 1 after the 1997 U.S. Open.

Donald responded quickly to the victory, tweeting "Congrats (at)McIlroyRory enjoy the view!"

Woods made two eagles in the final round and wound up two shots behind, along with Tom Gillis, who birdied the last hole for a 69.

McIlroy, who finished on 12-under 268, won for the fifth time in his career. Three of those are on the PGA Tour, including his record-setting victory in the U.S. Open last summer at Congressional.

He has finished out of the top five only once since the PGA Championship last August.

"There's very few players as good at him at his age out there winning tournaments," three-time major champion Padraig Harrington said. "There are guys with potential, but he's already delivered. And he has a good balance in his life. He doesn't look like a guy who is going to burn out. He looks like he's going to be here for a while."

McIlroy shared a big hug with his father, Gerry, as he walked off the 18th green. His parents have come over from Hollywood to stay with him in south Florida through the Masters, where McIlroy figures to be a top favorite.

After a Sunday like this, no one will be quick to rule out Woods.

He was nine shots behind going into the final round, and even a 31 on the front nine in blustery conditions left him five shots behind McIlroy. But the finish—especially that 5-iron into the 18th green—was vintage Woods, and it at least gave him a chance.

"To me, it was the old Tiger back, the guy that I remember," said Ernie Els, who played alongside him. "He never missed a shot or made a bad swing."

Lee Westwood, playing two groups ahead of Woods, closed with a 63 to finish alone in fourth.

"It was a lot of fun out there," Graeme McDowell said. "It was just roars going up all over the golf course. 'For Rory to go out today with a two-shot lead and have Tiger shoot 62 on him and Westwood shoot 63, it just shows how hard it is to win golf tournaments on any tour in the world, but especially this tour.'

"This golf season just got a lot more spicy."

McIlroy wasn't at this best on the front nine, though he did what the best players tend to do by turning a suspect round into a decent score. Despite having only two reasonable birdie chances on the front nine—he made one of them—McIlroy saved himself with a pair of par putts from 12 feet and another one from 8 feet.

No one looked capable of catching him.

Woods was still five shots behind until a finish that served as a reminder why this guy can't be counted out—not at PGA National, certainly not with the Masters around the corner.

"I figured I had to go birdie-birdie to have a chance," Woods said.

He did one better.

First, Woods dropped a 25-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, followed by a big tee shot on an aggressive line that left him a 5-iron into the par-5 18th, with the pin tucked over a bunker to the right side of the green near the water. Woods said it reminded him of his famous shot on the 18th at Glen Abbey in the 2000 Canadian Open, a 6-iron out of a bunker and over the water to a tight pin.

This one cleared the sand and settled 8 feet away, and Woods swept his fist when it

dropped for eagle.

He finished at 270, his lowest 72-hole score since he had a 265 at the 2009 BMW Championship, his last PGA Tour win.

The roar from thousands of fans down the 18th fairway could be heard at every corner of PGA National, yet it didn't rattle McIlroy. Moments later, he holed an 8-foot birdie putt on the 13th to build his lead back to two shots.

From there, it was a matter of hanging on.

With so much emphasis on his swing, the final hour was all about his will. After making his first birdie on the eighth hole, McIlroy had a two-shot cushion for most of the final round. But there was something different about having someone—especially Woods—in the clubhouse at 10 under, with McIlroy facing six holes and a shrinking margin of error.

He was 65 feet from the hole in rough so deep he had trouble finding his ball when McIlroy gouged out a wedge to 4 feet for par. In the back bunker on the par-3 15th, facing a shot that ran away from him toward the water, he blasted out to 6 feet and made another clutch par putt.

His final act was from another bunker on the par-3 17th, and he saved par again. McIlroy had seven one-putt greens (another was a birdie from the fringe), and one-putted four of the last six holes.

"My short game all week has been very good, and it's what you need on a tough golf course like this," McIlroy said. "I was able to do that, especially on 15 and 17. I needed to make pars there. My short game felt good all week, and it definitely saved me today."



# Andhok's Grille survives SCS in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Andhok's Grille needed five extra minutes to thwart the persistent SCS Heavy Equipment Rental, 88-83, during the first game in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The overtime win gave Andhok's an even 2-2 record and fifth place in the 10-team field, while SCS absorbed its second straight loss after a 3-0 start to drop from second to third place in the standings.

SCS played with only six players, as center Glenn Aquino and forward Jessie Mina sat on the bench due to injuries, while Jack Lizama did not show up for the match. Despite its depleted crew, SCS managed to lead by as much as 10 points in the second canto before falling short in the fourth period and in the extension.

Back-to-back baskets from Rocyl Ritual in the last 46 seconds of the fourth quarter sent the game in overtime. His first basket came off a tip-in after a

Manolo Manalo miss and the second one was another basket in the paint off a lob from Ferdie Tobias.

Andhok's had 13.6 second to pull up for a shot and win the game in regulation, but wasted a lot of time setting up for a play and when Gino Libuw finally decided to attack from the left wing, he was already time pressured and missed the side jumper at the buzzer.

Before the final play in the fourth period, there was confusion on the floor as the buzzer sounded after Ritual's basket knotted the count at 78. Table officials thought Andhok's called for a timeout, but coach Boy Garcia had none left and was just shouting for instructions from the sideline. SCS players then argued that a technical foul should be charged on Andhok's, but referees decided to let the "miscommunication" go and later the match went into overtime after Libuw's miss.

Both teams struggled offensively in the extension, which remained tied going into the last two minutes, 80-all, before Mike Umali converted a fast-break play, Jorge De Guzman made an undergoal stab and Tim Wesley split his charity in the ensuing plays.

Down 80-85, with less than



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Andhok's Grille's Jorge De Guzman fakes off the defense of SCS' Rocyl Ritual during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

a minute left, SCS refused to throw in the towel, as Manalo knocked in a triple to move within two, 83-85, 32.3 seconds left in the match. Another Wesley split from the foul line still made it a one-possession game, 86-83, and SCS had 13 seconds left to force another overtime.

However, Ferdie Tobias made an error when he came off a Bon Tamayo screen, attempted a triple from the right key, but at the last minute and in mid-air decided to drop the ball to the latter. Tamayo was already rolling toward the paint and it was Libuw who caught Tobias' drop pass and went straight to the basket and canned the fastbreak layup to secure the win for Andhok's.

Wesley top-scored for Andhok's with 21, while De Guzman chipped in 16. Manalo led all scorers with 30.

## Blue Haus 71, Crystal Pure 61

In the second game, defending champion Blue Haus improved to a 3-1 record for second place in the team standings after beating Crystal Pure.

Blue Haus led from start to finish, capitalizing on Crystal Pure's so-so performance on offense in the first half. Crystal

Pure was held to 12 points in the first period, allowing Blue Haus to take a 17-12 lead. Junar Guiab scored Blue Haus' first seven points in the opening canto.

By the end of the first half, Blue Haus stretched the lead to twin digits, 40-30, and Crystal Pure failed to make headway in the second half, as it was contented trading baskets with the defending champion.

Bernardo Aquino paced Blue Haus with 16 markers, while Guiab finished with 14. Mike Cruz had 16 for Crystal Pure, which fell to a 1-2 card.

## First Game

**Andhok's Grille 88** – Wesley 21, De Guzman 16, Umali 12, Libuw 10, Olaitiman 10, Capalad 8, Artates 7, Castro 2.

**SCS 83** – Manalo 30, Ritual 20, Tamayo 16, Pantaleon 10, Tobias 5.

**Scoring by quarters:** 12-18, 28-38, 61-61, 78-78, 88-83.

## Second Game

**Blue Haus 71** – Aquino 16, Guiab 14, Talania 10, Camacho 7, Itaas 6, Esdrelon 6, Tumaquip 6, Fernandez 4.

**Crystal Pure 61** – Cruz 16, Bernardo 15, Mendoza 10, Miranda 10, Lerio 8, Cadag 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-12, 40-30, 51-41, 71-61.

## ATAC

From Page 28

tum over into the deciding second set with game-point to 15 and a must-win-by-two rule.

The deciding set started close until ATAC worked an early, 5-4, lead into a 10-5 gap. Yamada held serve during the exchange.

Set To Kill came close and trailed, 9-11, but ATAC kept cool and closed it out from there after a big-time block by Yama-

da that all but sealed the deal.

ATAC's Yamada played very well defensively at the net and mixed up some sets to striker McCullough-Stearns with some sneaky tap shots to keep their opponents honest.

The foursome displayed great teamwork and never ran out of gas. Set To Kill may have committed a number of unforced errors late in the day, but to their credit ATAC stepped up and made some big plays at crucial points in both matches.

In U14 play, Ball Poppers'

Tommy Choi, Enrico Del Rosario, Billy Hinson, Hunter Jewell, and Ngahr Rastgny fell flat to Swagger, 9-21, in the second round, but climbed the ladder over Scared Hitless and third placer Beach Bums for another crack at its rivals.

Much like the U17 finale, the Ball Poppers came alive with their backs against the wall and pulled out a rally to force a deciding final set to 15.

Ball Poppers would also finish strong in the clutch and held off Swagger in the end,

however specific scoring results were not recorded on the official bracket.

The Top 3 place winners of both age groups were presented with medals and assorted gift bags, which included various coupon prizes.

The U17 division fielded 16 teams, while the U14 field featured nine.

The Marianas Kids Cup officially marked the conclusion of the 2012 Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

The festival is the longest run-

ning beach volleyball event in Micronesia and just celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Docomo Pacific, the Marianas Visitor Authority, Delta Airlines, and the Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association organized the festivities.

Other sponsors include KSPN2, Visitors Channel, Mobil, Blue Bay, Gatorade, Pepsi, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Practical Solutions, Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Law Offices of Bruce Berline, Law Offices

of Sean Frink, Marianas Medical Center, AIC, Law Offices of Stephen J. Nutting, Marianas Eye Institute, Deloitte, Subway, Foremost, PAS, Saipan International School, Island Apparel, Auntie Song, Micronesian Marine, Brother's Acupuncture Clinic, Smile Marianas, American Red Cross, National Office Supply, Lollipops, Delta Management Corp., Marianas Health, Spicy Thai Noodle Place, Tano Group Inc., Angie & Sean Photography, and San Vicente Estates.

## LOPSIDED

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off a late rally by the Falcons.

The Enforcers offense heated up early in the match and sparked a four-run burst in the second inning highlighted by a solo home run by Kier Agda.

As mentioned the Falcons managed three runs in the top of the fifth, but the uprising was quashed in the bottom frame as Agda capped off his day with a two-run shot in the fifth inning that brought around teammate Joaquin Saralu.

The Falcons were winded and managed a run in the final stand, but left the Enforcers buckled down and with the bases loaded.

Agda was also the winning pitcher and gave up one earned run off three hits with six walks, a bean ball and seven strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings. He batted 3-for-4 with four RBIs and three runs.

## Rays 15, Little Legals 2

The Rays jumped on top, 7-2, in the first inning and never looked back.

Rays built its lead off five hits including a two-RBI single by Manny Esefon.

Rays kept a lid on the Little Legals for the remainder of the contest and piled on five more runs in the second inning and another three in the third before clocking out early.

Winning pitcher Jay Kalen gave up two earned runs off two hits with three walks, a bean ball, and four strikeouts in three innings.

Rays' Nathan Torres batted 3-for-3 with an RBI and three runs.

## A's 13, McDonald's 3

After giving up two early runs in the opening frame, the A's blew the lock off the gate with an 11-run explosion in the bottom of the first inning.

The A's built the margin off

five hits and Rudy Santos, Austin Ada, and Christian Lizama scored twice.

Ada bagged an RBI single and Lizama a pair of RBI doubles, while teammates Ryuta Onuki bashed a two-RBI triple before being driven home by Anthony Tenorio.

The A's added a pair of runs in the second and held McDonald's scoreless in the fourth inning for the early decision.

Onuki swung 2-for-2 with three RBIs and two runs.

## JUNIOR LEAGUE Ol'Aces 15, Falcons 4

It was a close 4-2 ballgame in favor of Ol'Aces until Falcons starter Derek Naog was finally knocked off the mound.

Naog kept his team in contention until the fifth inning when he was pulled after a shaky start in the sixth.

Both teams managed a pair of runs in the fifth inning, but Ol'Aces pressed on with three runs

in the sixth. Mike Muna belted an RBI triple.

More wild pitching mixed with five hits by the thick of Ol'Aces' lineup allowed a six-run burst by Ol'Aces in the final inning of regulation.

Winning pitcher Jessie Brel gave up two earned runs off five hits with a walk, two hit batsmen, and six strikeouts in five innings.

## BIG LEAGUE Fielders 9, Hunter 2

The Fielders held control, 3-1, after three innings. Both teams then traded a run in the fifth frame and the Fielders pulled in front, 7-2, in the sixth inning off an error and a pair of RBI singles by Peter Lieto and Marvin Ngeskebei.

Fielders' Jonah Villagomez ripped a two-RBI double in the seventh as winning pitcher Carl Camacho kept the Hunters at bay.

Camacho went the distance

and gave up zero earned runs off five hits with five strikeouts.

Both Villagomez and Lieto batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs. Teammate Patrick Tenorio swung 3-for-5 with a triple and a run.

## Ol'Aces 6, Lions 2

The Lions tied it at 2-all in the third inning off a two-RBI double by Ricardo Dela Cruz, but Ol'Aces fired back shortly after with three runs in the top of the fifth off four hits, two of which were credited as RBI singles for Leonard Sablan and Keoni Lizama.

Lions' Leroy Regis was gunned down at third base to close the bottom frame and that was as close as the Lions came to mounting a comeback. Ol'Aces left the bases loaded in the sixth, but managed an insurance run in the seventh before Ol'Aces' Harry Nakamura returned to the mound to close the match.

Nakamura was issued the win and gave up three hits and a walk with four strikeouts in four scoreless innings.

Lions' Dela Cruz batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

## 4-PEAT

From Page 28

1:27:55. Rounding out the Top 6 were Takamasa Nishibashi (1:30:12), Yoshiharu Watanabe (1:31:25), and Kengo Usui (1:33:49).

The half marathon course started and ended at Micro Beach with runners heading first to Marianas Resort and Spa, and then to the northern part of the island along Beach Road up to the Oleai Beach Park and back to Micro Beach.

Age group winners in the 10K, half marathon, marathon, and ultra marathon will be published in *Saipan Tribune's* Wednesday edition.



# 7th SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Paul Plunkett, right, gets a high-five from Daniel Calvo after completing the race in last month's 7th SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.



Daniel Calvo is all smiles after completing the 3K race.



R.J. Pierce, right, rushes to the shore, while Mamiko Oshima-Berger takes her time finishing the race.



Suzy Kindel walks out of the water.



Karri Fisher, right, and Paul Viator check on the shore before moving out of the water.



Kento Akimaru runs to the shore.



Swimmers wait for other finishers.




SSC coach Mike Villagomez, right, plays with three kids.



Victoria Chentsova surfaces for air after the second lap of the five-lap race.




Miku Torres nears completion of the 1K race.




### Activity Schedule for March 6, 2012


8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices  
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM: Evening practices



NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION




Gillette  
MULTIPURPOSE  
GYMNASIUM



SAIPAN  
SOCCER  
SCHOOL

There are no scheduled games.

There are no scheduled games.





Kobe scores  
33, Lakers beat  
Wade's Heat

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

McIlroy holds  
off Tiger, goes  
to No. 1

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28 TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 4-peat for Noriko; Allen wins half marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Female runners Noriko Jim and Terra Allen made Saipan proud after ruling their respective races during last Saturday's 7th Saipan Marathon.

Jim topped the 10K race for the fourth straight time after crossing the finish line at Micro Beach in 44 minutes and 43 seconds, just one minute behind her 2011 winning time (43:43). The 41-year-old runner cut the tape just about three minutes ahead of Japanese Chemi Saito (47:14), while last year's runner-up Akiko Miller, who ran with her son in a stroller, dropped to third, but eclipsed her 2011 time (48:27) after submitting 47:52.



Completing the Top 6 in the women's 10K were Rika Katsuki (50:41), Sakiko Eda (50:50), and Kyoko Matsuda (51:09).

In the men's division, Charles Epperson won after a blistering time of 37:45. He was the lone 10K finisher who timed in under 40 minutes and over a minute shy from breaking the 2011 record (36:36) of Japan's Takasahi Aoyama. Epperson was no stranger to Saipan races, as two months ago, he ruled the 20K



Jim



Allen

race in the 5th Marianas Coffee Trail Run.

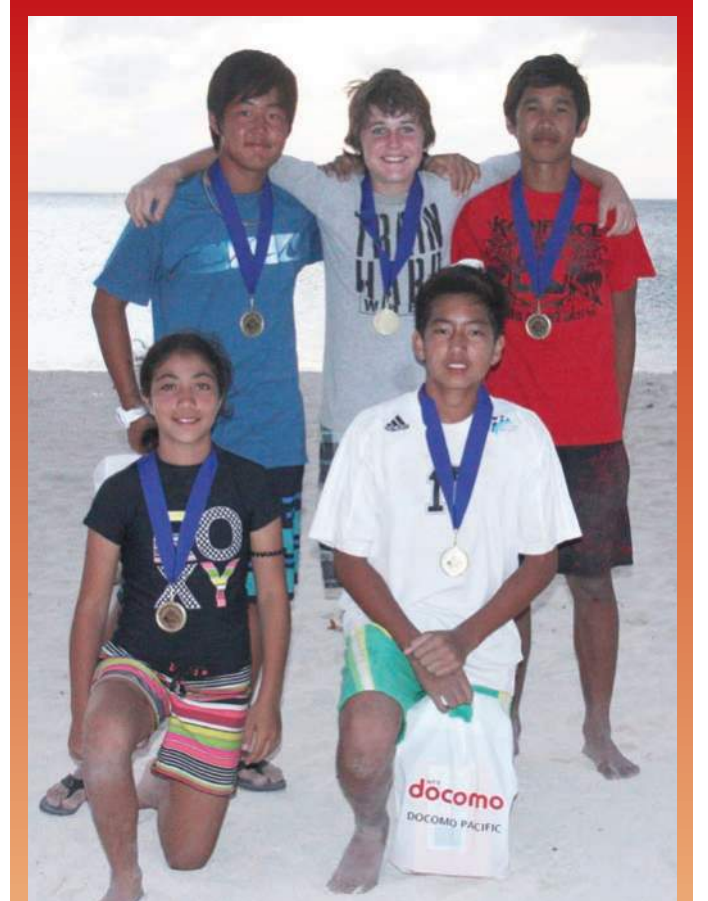
The organizing Marianas Visitors Authority is still finalizing the list of the five other finishers who broke into the Top 6 in the men's 10K race, which started at the American Memorial Park with runners heading north through Beach Road before making a turn near Hakubotan and returning to AMP.

Meanwhile, the women's half marathon had a new champion in Allen, who completed the third longest race of the weekend in 1:50:45. Allen crossed the finish line about five minutes ahead of Japanese Sayuri Yuyama (1:55:20). Saipan triathlete Dawn Hammermeister came in at third with her 1:58:49, followed by Japan's Harumi Kato (1:59:00), Kazue Usui (2:00:28),

and Chie Tokuyasu (2:00:43).

In the men's division, two Saipan runners made it to the Top 6 with Ronald Villafria placing second with a time of 1:30:01 and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel coming in at third at the 1:35:08 mark. Japan's Shohgo Tamura won the race with his

**See 4-PEAT on  
Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

U17's ATAC, above, and U14's Ball Poppers, top, pose for team photos after winning the 5th Marianas Kids Cup coed beach volleyball tournament last Sunday at the beachside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

## ATAC, Ball Poppers win 2012 Marianas Kids Cup

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

ATAC and Ball Poppers won their respective U17 and U14 divisions in the 5th Marianas Kids Cup four-person coed beach volleyball tournament held last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa sand courts.

ATAC's Andrew Johnson, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Amber Roberts, and Toni Yamada mounted an impres-

sive comeback after falling to eventual runner-up Set To Kill, 19-21, in the upper bracket semifinals.

ATAC downed third placer Giraffe, 15-11, to get its rematch against its favored opponent.

Set To Kill held a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, but ATAC went on the attack and grinded out a clutch, 21-18, upset.

ATAC carried the momentum and

**See ATAC on Page 26**



## Lopsided wins as competition enters third week

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

After a string of close margins in Week 2, this past weekend's Saipan Little League Baseball matches ended in lopsided scores as the 2012 season continued at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In Major Division action at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, the San Vicente A's wrapped up McDonald's, 13-3, in four innings last Saturday and Pacific Amusements' Rays overwhelmed the Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagman Little Legals, 15-2, in four frames on Sunday.

Meanwhile matches at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Pala-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

San Vicente A's Christian Lizama keeps his eye on a pitch during last Thursday's Major Division match against the Bank of Saipan Red Sox on Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

cios Ballfield saw the Junior League's Hawaiya Technologies Inc. Ol'Aces pummel the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Falcons, 15-4, on Sunday and the Big League's IT&E Fielders topple the St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters, 9-2, on Saturday.

In other results from Sunday, Major Division's JPO Dare Program Enforcers bested the Natibu Tanapag Falcons, 13-6, while the Big League's Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces defeated the Kagman Lions, 6-2.

### MAJOR LEAGUE Enforcers 13, Falcons 6

The Enforcers held a comfortable 7-1 lead after three innings and tacked on three runs in both the fourth and fifth frames to hold

**See LOPSIDED on Page 26**